



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 2023

Shared Use Mooring System (SUMS)

I am a mooring licensee, why should I 'opt-in' to the SUMS?

Mooring licensees that 'opt-in' pay a reduced annual mooring licence fee (51.5%), receive free access to other participating SUMS moorings and retain priority use of the mooring.

As a mooring licensee how do I know my mooring won't be damaged?

A disc system, like that used successfully at Rottnest Island, will show the maximum size a SUMS authorised vessel can be to access a participating mooring. The discs are colour coded to assist in the identification of appropriately sized moorings to use.

To ensure there is no damage, larger vessels will not be able to use the moorings. If the mooring licensee has a maximum vessel length of 11.5 metres the mooring will be marked with a green disc for use by SUMS authorised vessels no more than 10 metres in size.

Do all moorings have pick up ropes?

As it is not a condition of mooring site licence, SUMS users need to be prepared with their own lines when mooring.

What happens if I return to my mooring and there is a vessel secured to it?

The mooring licensee and an approved additional user retain priority use of the mooring. It's a requirement for a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) holder to remain on board an authorised vessel accessing the SUMS mooring so it can be relocated immediately if requested by the mooring licensee.

How do I prove I am the mooring licensee or approved additional user?

It is recommended that you keep a copy of your mooring licence certificate on board your vessel to demonstrate you are the licensee. Approved authorised users should use the DoT letter confirming their approval as an additional vessel for the mooring site.

What do I do if a vessel secured to my mooring refuses to relocate?

In the first instance contact the Water Police on 9442 8600 and if available they will send a patrol vessel. If no assistance is available record the details of the offending vessel, including the number of people on board and the time and circumstances of the incident and secure your vessel to nearest DoT owned courtesy or emergency mooring. As soon as possible contact the moorings team on 13 11 56 or email moorings@transport.wa.gov.au to advise which mooring your vessel is secured to.

What do I do if I lose or damage the SUMS disc on my mooring?

You may request a new SUMS disc for your mooring from the Department of Transport (DoT) by calling 13 11 56 or email maritime.licensing@transport.wa.gov.au Alternatively, you may contact your chosen approved mooring contractor.

What penalties apply for someone who does not relocate from my mooring when requested?

A vessel skipper that does not relocate a vessel from a participating SUMS mooring when requested by the mooring licensee or an approved additional user is committing an offence and may be issued an infringement of \$200 or prosecuted in court and may receive a fine of \$1000. Additionally, they may also have their SUMS authorisation cancelled.

If I am secured to a mooring and requested to relocate from the mooring licensee or an approved additional user can I use another SUMS mooring?

Yes, if requested to relocate by the mooring licensee or an approved additional user, you may use the closest available participating SUMS mooring that is a suitable size for your vessel.

Why does an RST holder need to remain on board an authorised SUMS vessel whilst secured to the mooring?

It's a requirement for a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) holder to remain on board an authorised vessel accessing the SUMS mooring so it can be relocated immediately if requested by the mooring licensee.

Unlike the system at Rottnest Island, where moorings are used as holiday destination moorings, DoT licensed moorings are primarily used for the storage of vessels and failure to relocate the SUMS vessel may negatively impact on the mooring licensee or approved additional users ability to store their vessel.

What time limits apply to the use of SUMS moorings?

Vessels authorised under the SUMS can secure to an appropriately marked mooring for their vessel size for a maximum of four hours during daylight or overnight from 7pm to 7am unless the licensee or approved additional user requests the use of the mooring. The system is designed for short stays on moorings whilst not being used for vessel storage. Time limits maximise mooring availability to everyone in the system.

Can I use my SUMS authorisation to moor at Rottnest?

No, the SUMS is only applicable to moorings administered by DoT in the 5 dedicated mooring control areas.

- Swan Canning Riverpark
- Mangles Bay, Rockingham
- Peel (Dawesville & Comet Bay)
- Oyster Harbour, Albany (*Limited moorings*)
- Fascine, Carnarvon (*limited moorings*)

For information relating to moorings at Rottnest Island visit [Rottnest Island | Moorings](#)

How much does it cost to purchase authorisation?

To view the current fees associated with becoming a SUMS authorised vessel visit [Marine fees and payments \(transport.wa.gov.au\)](#)

As a recreational vessel owner, if I can't find a suitable SUMS mooring, what other alternatives are there for me?

If a suitable SUMS mooring is not available, then you may also secure to a DoT courtesy mooring that are located in all mooring control areas.