

Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



180th Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta 2025
23 – 31 August 2025

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180th PORT OF 2025 DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA



The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta celebrated its 180th Regatta in 2025. Alongside the traditional mix of sports including Sailing, Rowing, Swimming, Running, Darts, Barrel rolling, Ice Cream eating and Crab fishing, 2025 saw the first inclusion of a day with sole Environmental focus on Mon 25 Aug 25. The day saw local environmental organisations were invited to attend, speak and showcase their causes – the overwhelming majority of which were operating within feet of the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth.

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations:

In 2025 we continue to offer a centralised refill station at the very centre of our event in the Royal Avenue Gardens which was well used.

Regarding single use plastics, our event is both shore and afloat based - with 100% of refreshments being offered by Public Houses/Bars around the town and one of our main sponsors, Bays Brewery. Historically all refreshments were offered in single use pint glasses, however all refreshments are now almost exclusively offered in more robust multi use and 'deposit requiring' reusable glasses - branded with Pub names and the Royal Regatta branding - all sponsored and provided by Bays brewery, thus removing our overwhelming main source of single use plastics. In 2025 the multi-use glasses were rebranded and continue this process moving forwards.



We also issue reusable prize mugs which are used throughout the year by those lucky enough to win one!



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws:

Our guidance for traders requires them to no longer use plastic straws - we are happy to reaffirm that this is enthusiastically embraced by all traders taking part in the event.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware:

Our guidance to traders requires them to no longer use plastic-based dinnerware - we are happy to reaffirm that this is enthusiastically embraced by our traders taking part in the event. In concert, our waste provider remains specifically selected to deliver a 'Zero to Landfill' solution for any small discrepancies amongst few traders. In 2025 specific cardboard waste collections were coordinated for traders as part of their setting up and 'unboxing' processes.

4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags:

We exclusively use and sell cotton branded Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta bags. Indeed they are used by many people around town throughout the year! However we ran out of our stock in 2025 – but that was ok because the bags are routinely still in use around Dartmouth and not a day of the year goes by without seeing one still in use.

5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy:

All of our Trophies are either perpetual (some well over 100yrs old) or made in such a way that they are dual use, such as mugs. We award mugs for rowing events that are used indefinitely. In 2025, sailing events and the Road Race were awarded wooden trophies, made from recycled items and manufactured locally.





6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts:

Our Regatta, and both our efforts towards sustainability and those who joined us for our Environmental Day and beyond, are all publicised via our website and Social Media.

[Facebook](#)

[Regatta Website – Sailors for the Sea](#)

[Instagram](#)

We have worked extremely hard to develop an appealing online presence, garnering 12k followers on Facebook and over 40k regular users of our website. Whilst this is normal for an event such as ours, it also gives us a platform to share those that partner with us and their messages with our followers and supporters.

Our Regatta Souvenir Programme is not only sourced and printed sustainably, it is also designed to be kept and collected – it might be paper based, but it's definitely not disposable! A dropbox/digital transfer is available upon request, please see notes below:

DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA 2025

PORT OF DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

MONDAY 25TH AUGUST

- 10:00 Silent Disco Yoga Devon
- 11:00 British Divers Marine Life Rescue Talk
- 11:30 Til the Coast is Clear Talk
- 12:00 The Seal Project Talk
- 13:00-14:00 Animal HQ Show
- 15:30 Saltmarsh Project talk
- 18:30 Silent Disco Tickets available from the Information Hut, Royal Avenue Gardens on the day. £7.50 each £25 for a family of 4

Friends and visitors can find the ideal spot to enjoy a wide range of street food, not only from one of our many stalls in The Royal Avenue Gardens but also throughout the town. A huge variety of high quality produce for all tastes and palates around the town and the Royal Regatta. Later in the week why not try something from the shopping parade situated along the North Embankment? The Royal Avenue Gardens will be the venue for live music and entertainment throughout Regatta week, where you will receive a warm welcome from our friendly committee members and volunteers who will be happy to assist you. Pop in to see us at the Information Hut.

THE SALTMARSH PROJECT

The Saltmarsh Project is a partnership between a number of government and local organisations, that has been carrying out Saltmarsh restoration on the upper reaches of the Dart Estuary, between Totnes and Sharpham, as well as exploring their biodiversity, carbon capture and spiritual importance.

Partners including Dart Harbour and the Bioregional Learning Centre will be talking about the importance of these endangered habitats, the work we've done, how we've collaborated with people from local artists to international scientists, and what's next.

"The Saltmarsh Project is a partnership between a number of government and local organisations, that has been carrying out Saltmarsh restoration on the upper reaches of the Dart Estuary, between Totnes and Sharpham, as well as exploring their biodiversity, carbon capture and spiritual importance. Partners including Dart Harbour and the Bioregional Learning Centre will be talking about the importance of these endangered habitats, the work we've done, how we've collaborated with people from local artists to international scientists, and what's next."

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY

THE SEAL PROJECT

The Seal Project monitors and records Grey & Common seals across South Devon, with Dartmouth being a key surveying location. We know many of the seals seen throughout the area by sight, many of whom have been known to us for a number of years.

These fascinating creatures are increasingly living their lives in more visible locations, so through our monitoring we are able to not only ensure they are safe and undisturbed, but through talks and education we can better raise awareness and understanding about these amazing creatures, whom we are incredibly fortunate to see around our shores. Please get in touch if you'd like to volunteer with us. www.thesealproject.co.uk

BRITISH DIVERS MARINE LIFE RESCUE

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) is a UK-based 24/7 365 charity dedicated to the rescue and welfare of marine animals such as seals, dolphins, whales, turtles and beavers. Established in 1988, BDMLR operates through a network of trained volunteer Marine Mammal Medics across the country.

In Devon, BDMLR's volunteers are on call to respond to reports of marine animals in distress with a team of qualified medics equipped to handle the increased strandings and entanglements along its dual coastline. Volunteers receive alerts from BDMLR headquarters and respond when available.

WWW.DARTMOUTHREGATTA.CO.UK

UNIVERSITY OF DEVON
BIOREGIONAL LEARNING CENTRE
FORCE FOR NATURE
PLATINUM SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

TIL THE COAST IS CLEAR

We clear up plastic pollution from less accessible shorelines using a special recyclable boat and a fleet of kayaks made of recycled fishing nets. We go wherever nature needs a helping hand but specialise in venturing to more remote locations where accumulations of plastic are often out of sight and out of mind.

This is where our kayaks and special boat come into their own. Through our partnerships, all recovered material is up cycled, recycled or used for waste to energy production. We educate, motivate and initiate change by visiting schools and attending events and shows, we host rewarding team days and talks for businesses wanting to work and play sustainably.

If you encounter a stranded or injured marine animal in Devon, you can contact BDMLR's rescue hotline at 01825 765546. It's important to keep a safe distance, minimise noise, and keep pets away to reduce stress on the animal. Do not attempt to assist the animal back to the water until it has been assessed. Our rescue advisers will advise you over the phone what you can do to assist, while our medics are on route."



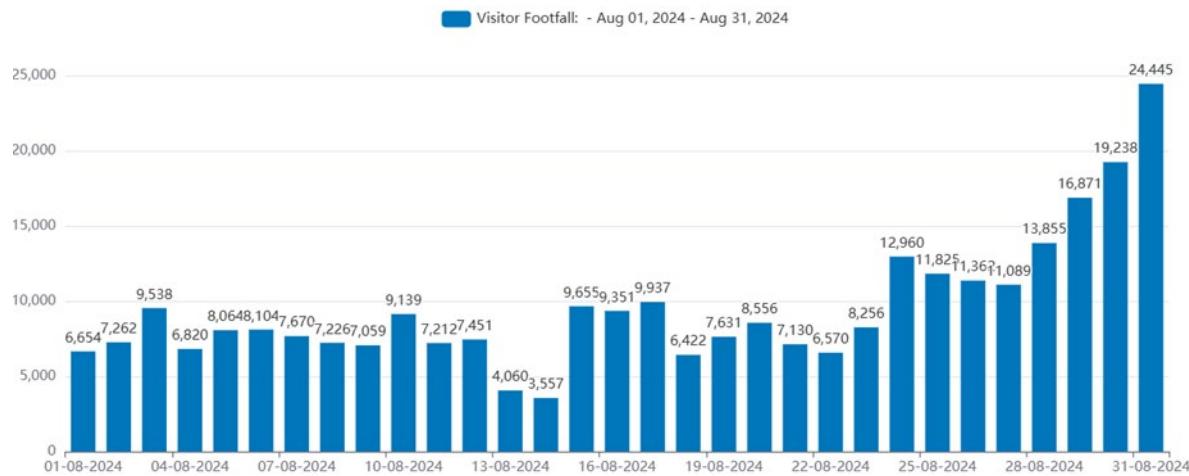




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Dartmouth Chronicle Platinum award article.



2024 Footfall figures for Regatta week 24-31 Aug 24

7. Involve Local Organizations:

For our 180th Royal Regatta in 2025 we hosted an Environmental Day in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth. A day was set aside to showcase the many partners who we have worked closely with over the past few years. All partners were offered stall spaces and time on the main stage to explain and expand on their aims. The day was well covered on social media and partners and attendees were:



- [The Seal Project](#)



British Divers Marine Life Rescue



Till the Coast is Clear



- [Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority](#) and [The Saltmarsh Project](#)



- [Friends of the Dart](#)

On Fri 29 Aug we were fortunate to be visited by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant as His Majesty The King's representative in Devon. She undertook a detailed visit encompassing sports, local businesses and meeting Committee and Green Team members. Throughout the visit she was hosted by both the Chairman and the Harbour Master and conveyed aboard Phoebe their [electric Yacht Taxi](#) of which we have reported previously.

8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage:

We **still** use a lot of signage! Roads close, routes change, races and competitions start and finish... However, through investment, it is now all reusable and correct in perpetuity. At expense we have a full stock of what we need, and whilst most is plastic (recycled though!), it is inherently reusable by design and already stored ready for 2026 and beyond. (We are still using the same signs bought in 2023!)

9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably:

From a previous submission:

We are a local event with a regional importance and national awareness - but our roots remain in and around Dartmouth. So many of the suppliers and businesses come from within our own postcode/zipcode - we give them preferential treatment and early opportunities to take part. We aspire to reduce (to zero in some cases) food miles - all whilst supporting local business and organisations; this is exactly what we are about. All whilst delivering great sport, food, competition and free fun for all who visit.

Which remains accurate – however, what we have done for the past 2 x years is to reduce the number of food stalls involved in the event (by almost 1/3 in 2 years) to allow for local (existing town businesses) to take advantage of the 80,000 attendees at the Royal Regatta, and reduce food miles for residents who live, work and provide for the town all year round and not just Regatta Week. It will be a tricky balance in future to see just how low/far the event can reduce its food offering and town will increase theirs to meet demand – but we're working on it!

10. Organize a Green Team:

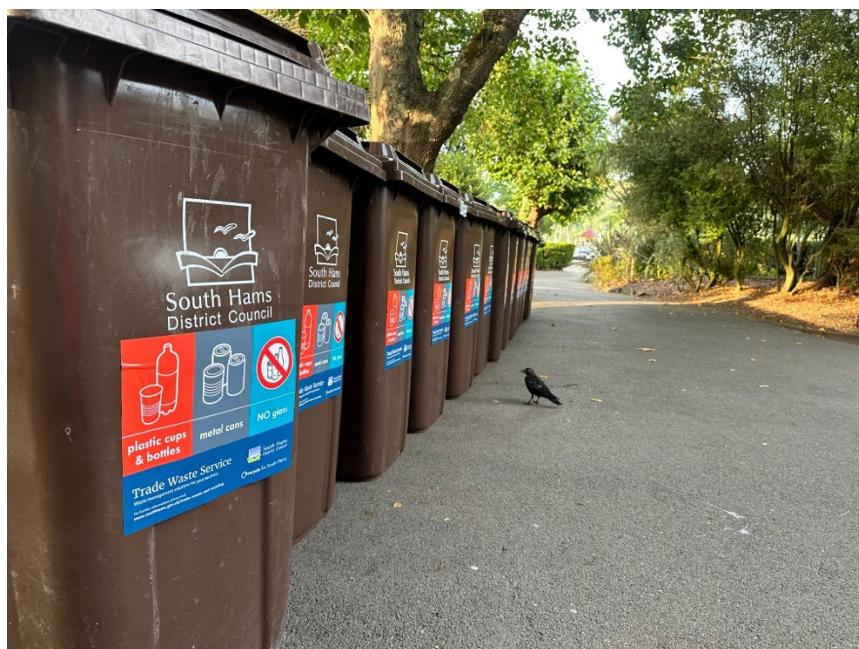
The planning of our Regatta is a 365 day/year activity, and how it could impact the environment is uppermost in that planning. Our Green Team has expanded to include most, if not all members of the Regatta Committee and Harbour Master, and every decision taken that may have an impact of The River, Sustainability of the environment or the local business environment is closely scrutinised.

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage:

See 12 below – improving further and working ever more closely with partners each year.

12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill:

We worked, again, in partnership with South Hams District Council (SHDC) as our Waste management Company – and again, they were excellent. [SHDC remains a Zero to Landfill waste management organisation](#), and in 2025 provided us with additional resource and personnel at no extra cost:



Working together, and with the support of our Local Councillors, we not only had additional specific waste recycling bins, but also had 2 x Waste Management Operatives throughout the week to assist in 'bin juggling' and managing full receptacles. Once busy (Thu, Fri, Sat days of Regatta) we fill and recycle up to 30 x 1000litre wheelie bins every 24hrs. It's a big operation with [nothing sent to landfill](#).

13. Use Paperless Event Management:

We aspire to 100% paperless event management; however, some items must be on paper for audit and safety reasons. We had to print out 2 x Event Management Plans and 1 x complete set of Risk Assessments to provide hard-copy access during the event.

Prior to the required event hard copies, all reference material, minutes, agendas, notes and drafts continue to be digital. Our Regatta Programme is a sustainable paper booklet that provides all information to visitors that aren't keen at all for a digital copy (we've tried - they neither like it or buy it!) and we 'buy out' waste by deliberately making it collectible and appealing so people buy and keep our Souvenir Programme year on year. We are working towards being as near paperless as possible, we're close and **still** getting better every year!

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up:

We do not have a beach in Dartmouth; however, we (all) clean up after ourselves and litter-pick the whole town daily and in great detail on the morning after the event. We had over 50 members of the community litter picking after the event (still using the same pickers and bag holders made from recycled plastic which were bought in 2023!) and were able to return the town to a pristine condition on the morning after the event. For 2025 we worked particularly closely with the District Council to keep the town and River clean during our week-long event – with them supplying 2 x additional and dedicated Operatives solely to keep bins and town tidy throughout the event – and avoid overspill into the River.

15. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water:

We encourage responsible boating and water activities at every stage. We pay attention to toxins and the sailors have very strict instructions not to dispose of any pollutants or use toxins during the event. Again, we are partnered with DHNA - indeed they give permission for the event, and thus we work closely all year with them and all river and estuary users must abide with their code of conduct to be allowed to take part. We attend several exercises and information days at DHNA throughout the year, an example is here: <https://www.darharbour.org/news-and-notices/port-notices/2025/07/08/Intm-17-25-dart-harbour-oil-spill-exercise-9th-july-2025/>

And the fact that much of Dart Harbour lies within a Marine Conservation Zone weighs heavily on us: <https://www.darharbour.org/the-dart-estuary/environment/>

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Organizations attending the Environmental Day shared their work understanding and protecting the environment of The Port of Dartmouth and surrounding areas. The talk and stand were presented by the Harbourmaster Paul Britton. Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority (DHNA) delivered the Saltmarsh Project on the River Dart and Estuary (<https://www.darharbour.org/the-saltmarsh-project/>). We also had representatives from The Seal Project, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Til the Coast is Clear, all sharing how to protect and restore our marine and coastal environment.

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives:

We embrace a wide variety of different types of food provision for visitors; indeed we don't allow duplication and offer selection of different types/methods of foodstuffs (Indian, Thai, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Burgers and more mainstream offerings). All offer vegetarian options and many vegan choices - with little to no duplication.

As outlined at 9 above, we are working on the balance of our event supplying additional food offering and the food outlets in town to cope/supply to 80,000 visitors to the event. We are working on the balance of what Dartmouth can provide and how do we as the event need to 'pick up the slack' with our vendors when existing food retailers close of reach capacity.

18. Promote Alternative Transportation:

One of our Royal Regatta strap-lines remains 'Arrive early and stay all day'. We work closely with the District Council on a park and ride provision, our regional bus company, The Dart Steam Rail and River Company for ferries, steam trains and steam paddle steamers to allow visitors to use multiple ways to get to our Regatta - other than using their cars. All are well publicised in Souvenir Programme and online through our website and social media.

Our own car parking provision was successfully pre-sold this year – allowing people to plan and book for multiple days stay well in advance, reducing journeys. Recent data tells us that August in Dartmouth has almost 90% Holiday Letting occupancy, indicating that many visitors come and stay for the week rather than travel to the event.

19. Reduce Day-of Emissions

We have increased our use of the MarkSetBot robotic marks over all three courses in this year's regatta underlining our commitment to a more sustainable event.



20. Inspire Future Action

With the Environ Day organisations we encourage awareness and also 'sign up' to the local Environmental Organisations - Friends of The Dart in particular had many new members and our Wild Swimming clubs (to be included in 2026) are strengthening week by week.

Alongside this we have brought aboard OneSails (below) as our sail manufacturer sponsorship due to their drive to develop sustainable and recyclable sails. OneSails not only offer these new sails but also offer a recycling service for old sails which are then converted into a myriad of products including the bags used to deliver the Salcombe Gin deliveries.

The OneSails group shares a passion for sailing and the sea. Respect for the environment keeps us focused on how we can continually improve the sustainability of our sails.

Our commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of our sails is centred on the materials and what happens to a sail at the end of its life. In 2015, OneSails launched 4T FORTE™ sails and sail recycling process. Awarded ISO 14040 Life Cycle Assessment Certification, 4T FORTE™ are the only fully recyclable sails on the market today.

INTRODUCING THE FIRST EVER

HI-PERFORMANCE SUSTAINABLE SAILS

4T FORTE™ are the “green sails”. Membranes and their assembly have been engineered for highest standards in terms of environmental impact and recyclable options. Glues, resins and solvents have been replaced by heat fusion and the base polymer is 100% recyclable in a standard waste separation process.

1.

MANUFACTURING PLANT

Holds to the highest standards of environmental practices and the responsible sourcing of materials and energy sources.

2.

PRODUCTION

Sails made of 4T FORTE are produced with a low level of CO2 emissions into the atmosphere and without the use of pollutants such as glues, resins and solvents.

3.

DISPOSAL

At the end of their useful life, these sails are recycled within the normal recovery processes of polyethylene-based raw materials to generate the PE pellet.

4.

RECOVERY

The polyethylene pellet is used for the production of accessories (such as headboards) to be used in the production of new sails.