

# Harbour Clean



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## PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

# Nirvana is a Clean Harbour

**Portsmouth-based workboat operator, Harbour Clean**, reports that a clean marine environment is still a priority for most ports, despite the recent local government cutbacks.

Utilising a fleet of small workboats named Nirvana, designed specifically for shallow water (less than 6 inches or 150mm) operation, **Harbour Clean** engage in a range of activities within the inter-tidal areas of many south coast ports, primarily within the Hampshire, Solent and Sussex boundaries.

“Floating and washed-ashore debris and litter is still a major problem, despite the introduction of MARPOL (marine pollution) regulations,” says Harbour Clean Manager, Sean Moth. “Although ships and all marine leisure craft are banned from dumping litter overboard, it is amazing how much plastic waste and flotsam arrives on our shores. Large plastic sheets, ropes and parts of fishing nets are a real hazard, not only to wildlife but even to huge craft such as the cross-Channel catamaran and other high performance vessels in rivers and harbour approaches.”

“A recent clean-up operation in a large south coast port resulted in over a tonne of floating debris being recovered in two hours,” commented Sean. “Closer inshore the waste appeared to be from a more domestic source, including sunken obstacles such as children’s bikes, shopping trolleys and even a drowned cat!”

“Weed control in marine areas is of great concern this year – the Royal Yachting Association reported recently that a large number of their sailing clubs were clogged with various types of weed and we are receiving a high level of enquiries for both weed control and removal.”

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Additionally, Harbour Clean operate an emergency service for both oil spill boom deployment and for personnel/equipment evacuation from flooded land. "With the boats afloat in water of just 6 inches (150mm), we can access areas out of reach of other boats, and the bow doors of our landing craft mean that we can offer a loading platform at water level or direct from the dry land" explained Sean. "The boats are fully road transportable so we can mobilise to most locations along the south coast in just a couple of hours and launch in almost all tidal conditions."

Enquiries have even been received from film companies wanting to use the stable platforms of the Nirvana landing craft for their film crews. "Every time the phone rings it seems to bring a new challenge" commented Sean "and long may it continue."

**Picture captions:**

**Harbour Clean 1.jpg:** *Sean Moth, manager of Harbour Clean, shows the extent of weed clogging many ports and harbours of the south coast.*

**Harbour Clean 2.jpg:** *The highly manoeuvrable Nirvana landing craft is able to clear weed from areas inaccessible by deeper draft vessels.*

**ENDS**

**Note to editors:**

Harbour Clean is based at Northney Marina, Hayling Island and was founded as a family-run business in 2009.

The 'Nirvana' class landing craft are fully compliant with the SASHMA (Solent and Southern Harbour Masters' Association) guidelines for workboat operation. Principal dimensions are 6.1m long, 2.3m beam, 150mm draft (light), speed 8 knots, 1.5 tonne (distributed) payload, 2 crew. A full width bow door allows for direct loading of personnel or wheeled plant.

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