



## Marigot remains safe port in a storm

### News Release

The Marina at Marigot Bay has issued a statement reassuring small craft operators, the St Lucia Day Charter Association and yacht owners that the new mooring buoy field in the inner bay will not obstruct local boats from seeking shelter in the mangroves should a Tropical Storm or Hurricane threaten the island.

The field of 20 mooring buoys was laid in the bay earlier this year on behalf of the St Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority following approval from the Development Control Authority.

Marigot Bay has traditionally been used as an effective hurricane shelter and according to Marina at Marigot Bay Manager, Bob Hathaway, a number of measures will be adopted to ensure the bay can continue to be used as a safe haven unhampered by the new permanent mooring system.

The new SLASPA mooring buoys are not warranted for Tropical Storm or Hurricane force winds and could sink boats moored to them due to snatch loads and the lack of scope on the riser chains in the event of a high storm surge. For this reason all boats occupying these mooring buoys will be asked to vacate the mooring or use it as part of their stern or bow mooring system in the mangroves. All buoys which might obstruct free anchoring will then be removed by Marina staff and the chains dropped to the bottom of the bay.

Mr Hathaway said as boats arrive in the bay, they will be given the option of using a mooring buoy as part of their mooring system; using their own anchors and the mangroves; or berthing in the Marina at Marigot Bay.

As part of these hurricane preparedness measures, The Marina has also outlined additional requirements for use of the SLASPA moorings which include laying at least one additional anchor at maximum available scope; attaching their boat to the mooring buoy ring with a minimum 10 metre length of chain or high-strength rope appropriate to the size of the boat but not exceeding 13mm diameter (for chain) or 24mm diameter for polyester or nylon rope. This ensures that the buoy

attachment is weaker than the buoy system and that the buoy will not sink the boat through lack of scope. Boats should be positioned, as far as practical, at right angles to the adjacent line of the shore or mangroves.

Berthing in the Marina itself is only by permission of the Marina at Marigot Bay and will only be granted to boats that carry third party liability for any damage that might be caused to the Marina or other boats. Normal check-in and charges will apply.

A full list of further Marina requirements is available at [www.marigotbay.com](http://www.marigotbay.com) under the Marina news section.

“In order to avoid environmental damage to the mangrove system, the above arrangements will apply only for the period of a watch or warning and for 48 hours thereafter unless it is clear that there is a significant risk from a named or numbered weather system due to strike in the following 7 days,” Hathaway said.

“We certainly want assure all local boat operators and yacht owners, and the captains of yachts visiting St Lucia that Marigot Bay remains a tried and trusted hurricane hole and we will do all in our power to ensure this remains the case,” he added.

**For berth bookings, contact:**

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