



ECPY Riviera Yachting Symposium,

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Anchorage Issue & Regulations and Yachting Cluster



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Will there be
sufficient safe
and sheltered
anchorage for
all the boats by
2050..

Maybe yes !!! But not safe and presumably in the open seas.. !!!

These are just Google Earth views of 2 popular bays in Gulf of Hisaronu in Turkey, over hundred yachts at anchor as if they are in a marina. I am sure you all have similar situation and satellite views from the places you live or operate..



A perspective look into yachting by 2050's .. and global yacht production – are we being realistic about our responsibilities, as yacht builders, consumers, chartering professionals and all the rest of concerned parties in the industry ..??

- Total units per year: Around 1 million recreational boats of all kinds including inflatable toys, dinghies, small ones, plus tens of thousands of yachts, including ~150 + mega and superyachts, with giga yachts joining them soon.
- Total combined market size: Approximately US \$40–45 billion annually and it's undeniably a big industry and no body wants to loose ; businesses which are built over many years of hard work, from end consumers point of view the luxury and comfort and the decadence..

-  **Notes & Context**

- Figures vary depending on segmentation (commercial vs. leisure) and definitions (e.g., what counts as a yacht). The recreational boat segment clearly dominates by volume, while yachts (esp. superyachts) contribute significantly to value per unit.

Yachting by the 2050s is likely to evolve in fascinating ways due to advances in technology, sustainability, and changing global trends.

Here's a perspective on how it could look in the next 15-20 years and further:

Green Technologies: By 2050, the industry will likely be almost entirely powered by renewable energy, replacing traditional fuel sources.

Eco-friendly Materials: Yacht construction will prioritize sustainable materials—such as bio-resins, lightweight composites, and recycled ocean plastics—to reduce environmental impact.

Waste Management: The growing concern over ocean pollution will push for yachts with zero-waste systems

Zero-emissions Goals: Many yacht manufacturers will aim for net-zero emissions, both in construction and operation, aligning with broader global sustainability goals.

And we will see more and more autonomous yachts with self-piloting technology, and with higher AI integrated safety and navigation Systems will be the future of yachts.

BUT WHERE WILL THEY ALL ANCHOR or SHELTER ?





- It is very obvious that there won't be enough anchorages and marina berths for all the yachts in the very near future.
- Already for the past 4-5 years since the pandemics and then the sanctions, in my region, Gulf of Gocek there are times that captains are seeking for hours for a place to drop anchor for the day or night.
- **And over crowded seas bringing other problems.**

Gulf of Gocek Special Protection Area (MPA)



- Middle East Technical University, one of Türkiye's leading universities, conducted a comprehensive study in 2007 in the Gulf of Göcek, collecting data on biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and the impact of yachting in the gulf. At the time of the study, average length of yachts with bareboats included visiting the gulf were about 20+ meters, the average now is expected to be between 30-35 meters, and the conclusion of this study revealed that back in 2007 max sustainable capacity of Gocek Gulf was maximum 1000 yachts !! Remember the average was LOA 20+ meters then.
- **Following this study and alert, Turkish Ministry of Environment has put in effect " The principles and limits of using Gocek bays in May 2010" .. It was a revolutionary regulation not allowing a yacht to stay more then 1 week at the same anchorage/area, not to use any trees as bollards, regularly register their grey water discharge to waste collection stations, the compulsory amount of discharge on regular basis was formulated pro rata per person onboard, but the control mechanisms except the Blue Card sysytem for grey water discharge was not efficient and full conduct of it to the yachts of the priviledged was not easy, thus this regulation was in vain.**
- And we witness very summer, especially since the sanctions, that there are over 3000 minimum yachts in the high season in Gocek gulf. It is almost not sustainable any more.

- **The sea can not refresh and cleanse itself in partially closed gulfs and bays, along with marine pollution the biggest threat is the anchoring damage.** As we all know traditional anchoring can cause significant damage to the sea floor, especially to delicate habitats like posidonia – aka seagrass meadows, and underwater ecosystems. The anchors themselves can create “scarring” on the seabed, which affects marine life.
- One solution comes up here for those yachts which can drop anchor over 35 plus meters deep, as such depth is no more habitat for the posidonia, but this is again is a solution for the bigish yachts not the majority.
- As temporary solution the Turkish Government Environmental Protection Agency since last year has already started **eco-friendly anchoring system for Gocek Gulf as pilot project, GPS-based smart mooring Systems** ("no-anchor" systems), and there will be less than 1000 mooring buoy and bollards combined. Gocek gulf will be the first area for this project which expected to be in effect by 2026 and after then it will be implemented to all the popular yachting areas along the Turkish Coast.



In conclusion, we need to gradually prepare for a reduction in yacht production and anticipate increasingly strict environmental protection regulations from governments in the near future. This shift is likely to result in a contraction across all segments of the yachting industry, ultimately leading to smaller business capacities over the long term !!!

Solution: There is no immediate solution, and the solution will evolve naturally, and this symposium we are attending now hopefully will give us a path to follow to overcome the anchorage problem we are facing and to continue working on solutions all together with all the concerned parties of the industry and the Mediterranean Yachting Nations Government representatives, thus we can create global awareness and hopefully bring solid solutions. Thank you for listening.

We will probably miss the below frame in the near future; 4 boats only in one bay.

