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ISLAS BALEARES Mid Season Update (8 Sep 8)

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ANCHORING

1. There are many places formally listed as anchorages where anchoring is now prohibited. Some are calas now classed as "Marine Reserves" - similar to the Island of Cabrera - and others have been laid to buoys in order to "preserve the seabed" (and to enable a fee to be charged!). These are too numerous to list and the trend is continuing. It is also said to be rotational as far as the protected areas are concerned, making it difficult to know when and where. For some restricted areas, this is also temporary, probably only in the high season. This therefore needs to be stated as a general notice.

2. I arrived first in Menorca in a storm and phoned ahead to see where space might be available. (bear in mind this was in the high season, mid August). I did not expect to find anything based on previous years experience at this time of year but was amazed that every place I called had space! The same was true when I went on to Mallorca. Every marina I called offered room on a pontoon. In Porto Colom I just could not believe how few yachts were there. The price was also staggering compared with previous years - I was charged only Euros 26 per night on the port authority pontoon with all facilities - elect, water and good showers etc. In August!

14/12/2008