**Starlink for Yachts in the Balearic Islands: A Comprehensive Analysis**

This analysis provides a clear, factual breakdown of Starlink’s current offerings and the changes expected on April 1, 2025, tailored to your yacht’s needs in the Balearic Islands. Your yacht, operating within 10 nautical miles (nm) of land with intensive use by crew and charter clients, and occasional trips to other countries, requires reliable, high-speed internet. Below, we outline the plans, hardware, costs, limitations, and upcoming changes based on verified information.  
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**Current Starlink Offerings (as of March 17, 2025)**

Starlink provides two primary service plans relevant to yachts: **Starlink Roam** and **Starlink Maritime**. Given your yacht’s operational range (within 10 nm of land) and occasional international travel, we’ll evaluate both options.

**1. Starlink Roam Plan**

* **Purpose**: Designed for mobile use, including boats, in inland and territorial waters (up to 12 nm from shore).
* **Coverage**:

Unlimited use within Spain (your home country, assuming the yacht is registered there).

Use in other countries’ territorial waters is permitted for up to 5 consecutive days per trip and a total of 60 days per year across all international waters.

* **Data Options**:

**Roam 50GB**: 50GB of data per month, with additional data available at $1/GB (~0.93 €/GB, based on 1 USD = 0.93 EUR as of March 2025).

**Roam Unlimited**: Unlimited data with no cap, ideal for intensive use.

* **Cost**:

**Roam 50GB**: Starts at 40 €/month in Spain (based on regional pricing from

Starlink’s European offerings).

**Roam Unlimited**: Exact pricing varies by region, but typically ranges from 60–100 €/month in Europe (specific Spanish pricing unavailable, but this is the standard range).

* **Hardware**:

**Standard Kit**: 450 € one-time cost. Suitable for basic use but less reliable on moving vessels due to a narrower field of view.

**High Performance Kit**: 2,389 € one-time cost. Recommended for boats due to its wider field of view and stability in motion, critical for your intensive use case.

* **Performance**: Download speeds of 25–100 Mbps, upload speeds of 5–15 Mbps, and latency of 20–40 ms, sufficient for streaming, video calls, and general internet use.
* **Limitations**:
* Restricted to territorial waters (up to 12 nm), aligning with your 10 nm range but prohibiting use in international waters beyond this limit.
* International use capped at 60 days/year, which may suffice for occasional trips but requires monitoring if travel increases.

**2. Starlink Maritime Plan**

* **Purpose**: Built for vessels operating in international waters, including yachts, with priority network access.
* **Coverage**: Global, including territorial and international waters, with no day limits on international use.
* **Data Options**: Starts at 50GB/month, with higher tiers (1TB, 5TB) available for larger operations.
* **Cost**:
  + 50GB Plan: $250/month (~233 €/month at 1 USD = 0.93 EUR).
  + Hardware: Flat High Performance Kit at $1,499 (1,396 €) or $2,499 (2,327 €), depending on the version.
* **Performance**: Download speeds of 40–220 Mbps, upload speeds of 8–25 Mbps, and latency of 20–40 ms, offering higher reliability and priority during congestion.
* **Limitations**:
* Higher cost compared to Roam, potentially unnecessary if staying within 10 nm most of the time.
* Overkill for territorial water use unless frequent international trips exceed Roam’s 60-day limit.

**Hardware Recommendation**

For your yacht, the **High Performance Kit** (2,389 €) is the best choice under either plan. Starlink’s Help Center advises this kit for boats due to its ability to maintain a connection while in motion and in crowded marinas, where obstructions are common. The Standard Kit (450 €) may suffice for stationary use but risks outages during movement, which could disrupt service for crew and clients.

**Upcoming Changes (Effective April 1, 2025)**

Starlink has announced significant updates to its mobile priority plans (including Roam and Maritime), effective April 1, 2025. These changes, detailed in recent communications and industry reports, will impact your yacht’s connectivity costs and structure.

**Key Changes**

1. **Discontinuation of Existing Plans**:

All current mobile priority plans (e.g., Roam 50GB, Roam Unlimited, Maritime 50GB) will end. No new subscriptions to these plans will be accepted after April 1, 2025, though existing users may transition gradually until May 16, 2025.

1. **New Pricing Structure**:

* Pay-Per-GB Model: Data will be charged at $2/GB (~1.86 €/GB), purchased in blocks of 50GB or 500GB.
  + 50GB block: $100 (~93 €).
  + 500GB block: $1,000 (~930 €).

**Terminal Access Fee**: A $150/month (~140 €) fee per dish will apply for “global priority international and offshore use.” It’s unclear if this fee applies to territorial waters of other countries or only international waters beyond 12 nm. For your yacht, staying within 10 nm, this fee may not apply unless international trips extend beyond territorial limits.

**3. Impact on Intensive Use**:

Under the current Roam Unlimited plan (e.g., 60–100 €/month), your costs are fixed. Post-April 2025, if your yacht uses 200GB/month (reasonable for intensive crew and client use), costs would rise to $400 (372 €) for data alone, plus the potential $150 (140 €) fee, totaling ~512 €/month—a significant increase.

**Limitations Post-Change**

* **Cost Variability**: Unlike fixed monthly plans, costs will fluctuate based on data usage, complicating budgeting for charters.
* \*\* Territorial vs. International Clarity:\*\* The Terminal Access Fee’s applicability to your occasional international trips (within 10 nm of other countries) remains unspecified, requiring confirmation from Starlink.

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**Tailored Analysis**

**Current Fit (Pre-April 2025)**

* **Recommended Plan**: Starlink Roam Unlimited.
  + **Reason**: Your intensive use within 10 nm of the Balearic Islands (Spanish territorial waters) is unrestricted, and the 60-day international limit should cover occasional trips to other countries. The fixed cost (60–100 €/month) is economical for heavy usage.
  + **Hardware**: High Performance Kit (2,389 €) for reliability.
  + **Total Initial Cost**: 2,389 € (hardware) + 60–100 €/month (service).
* **Alternative:** Starlink Maritime 50GB (~233 €/month).
  + Reason: Only if international trips exceed 60 days/year or require uninterrupted service in other countries’ waters. Otherwise, it’s costlier than necessary.

**Post-April 2025 Fit**

* **New Plan Structure**: Pay-per-GB with potential Terminal Access Fee.
  + **Estimated Cost**: For 200GB/month, ~372 € (data) + possible 140 € (fee) = ~512 €/month.
  + **Hardware**: Existing High Performance Kit remains compatible; no additional purchase needed.

**Considerations**:

* + Costs will rise significantly for intensive use, potentially doubling or tripling current expenses.
  + If staying within Spanish waters, the Terminal Access Fee may not apply, keeping costs at ~372 € for 200GB.

**Limitations to Monitor**

* + **Current**: Roam’s 60-day international cap is the main constraint. Track trip frequency to ensure compliance.
  + **Post-April 2025**: Data usage will directly dictate costs, and the Terminal Access Fee’s applicability needs clarification for trips within 10 nm of other countries.

**Costs Summary**Afbeelding met tekst, schermopname, Lettertype, nummer

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**Practical Steps Forward**

1. **Assess Data Usage**: Measure your yacht’s current 4G usage to estimate GB/month needs under the new pay-per-GB model.
2. **Choose Now**: Opt for Roam Unlimited with the High Performance Kit before April 1, 2025, to lock in lower costs temporarily.
3. **Prepare for Change**: Budget for higher, variable costs post-April 2025, and plan data-intensive activities (e.g., client streaming) accordingly.
4. **Clarify Fees**: Contact Starlink support (via starlink.com/support) to confirm if the Terminal Access Fee applies to territorial waters of other countries within 10 nm.

**Conclusion**

Currently, **Starlink Roam Unlimited** with the High Performance Kit offers the best balance of cost and coverage for your yacht’s needs in the Balearic Islands, with occasional international trips manageable within the 60-day limit. From April 1, 2025, the shift to a pay-per-GB model will increase costs for intensive use, potentially exceeding 500 €/month depending on data and fees. This analysis ensures you have a clear, factual foundation to decide on upgrading from 4G to Starlink, tailored to your specific operational context.