



BOATdigest

**GUIDELINES ON END-OF-LIFE RECREATIONAL CRAFT
FOR BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS
AND OTHER NAUTICAL FEDERATIONS**



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1. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES' STRUCTURE

This document is targeted to **boat owners' associations and other nautical federations** with the aim of providing them with guidelines and key information on the role they play in encouraging and helping recreational craft (RC) owners to take ownership for their end-of-life boats in a responsible manner. This document also highlights the role these associations play in involving other nautical/marine organisations such as marinas, boating schools and repair and refit companies.

The guidelines include a section gathering general overview of the problem related to end-of-life recreational craft and a specific section on the actions to be taken by associations concerning this matter.

2. THE PROBLEM OF END-OF-LIFE RECREATIONAL CRAFT

When a recreational craft owner **no longer wants his/her boat** (which does not always mean it has reached the end of its operating life), they may (1) sell, donate or dispose/recycle their craft or carry out bad practices such as (2) abandoning, sinking or burning. When a recreational craft **reaches its "end-of-life status"** (which means the boat is no longer useful for its main activity - navigation - or the owner has decided to dispose of the boat), the owner chooses one of the following options: treatment (disposal/recycling) or abandonment.

For many years several nautical associations, companies, marinas, environmental and research organisations, public agents and other key organisations have been highlighting the problem of abandoned recreational craft in several European countries. However, **limited information is available**, making it very difficult to quantify the abandoned recreational craft in Europe.

Abandoned boats (on land, floating or sunken) can cause (1) **leakage or spills of liquid wastes** (hydrocarbon, oil and liquid from batteries), and (2) **the release and/or detachment of solid wastes** (parts/pieces of the boat containing other hazardous substances, furniture, plastics, etc.). These may harm the environment (both in public and private properties) and be dangerous for marine life.



3. ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER NAUTICAL FEDERATIONS

Boat owners' associations, representing the interests of boaters, are important to raise awareness among users. Other associations (professionals, industry, boating schools, services) also have their role to play when it comes to dealing with end-of-life recreational craft.

GENERAL ACTIONS

-  **Provide information** (mailings, leaflets or similar) about the options for the disposal and recycling of recreational craft and, this way, decrease the number of abandoned craft.
-  **Provide information in relation to the impact caused by end-of-life and/or abandoned recreational craft** both on the marine environment and on land
-  **Inform owners about the awareness module available for recreational craft owners** in English, Spanish, Italian, Turkish and French
-  **Inform recreational craft owners about existing dismantling and/or recycling locations in the area**
-  **Explain to recreational craft owners that in some countries marinas carry out dismantling activities** (usually in the boat yard within and/or next to the marina)



A map to locate boat dismantling facilities, regularly updated, has been set up for owners in order to easily find both boat dismantling facilities and the national contact point for boat dismantling activities. This map is available at the following link:

<http://www.boatdigest.eu/dismantling-network.asp>

STRATEGIC ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY NAUTICAL/MARITIME ASSOCIATIONS



Carry out awareness campaigns addressing end-of-life recreational craft-related matters, providing guidance and showing owners the environmental impacts and economic value and the importance of disposing of craft properly



Promote the existing and currently active working group on end-of-life recreational craft created by the European Boating Association (EBA) in 2012, focused on both environmentally sustainable activities and economic related issues.

If considered useful, additional working groups at local/regional/national level could be created in order to gather the opinions and perspective of the boaters and/or deal with specific problems related to end-of-life craft at local/regional/national level. If these new groups were to be created, it is recommended to contact EBA in order to work this matter in collaboration and find synergies



Promote boat dismantling by means of joint initiatives undertaken by the nautical sector



Provide other regional and/or local associations with end-of-life recreational craft-related information, supporting material aiming to:

Start/continue making boat owners' associations and other nautical federations aware of their key role in raising owners' awareness in relation to end-of-life craft.

Involve boat owners' associations and other nautical associations in the Boat DIGEST awareness module targeted to owners.

Send end-of-life-related material to recreational craft owners through boat owners' associations and other nautical federations' communication channels (e.g. mailings, website, events, etc.).



Attract the attention of the media (general media and thematic media, like journals addressing boat lovers, TV programmes about the sea and/or the environment/nature), in order to raise awareness and show that concrete solutions already exist.



Display the material made available for associations related to end-of-life recreational craft in strategic visible places in association facilities.



Send boating schools/training centres, marinas and repair & refit companies the guidelines on end-of-life recreational craft specific for their communities, available in English, Spanish, Italian, French and Turkish.



Stimulate initiatives that reward (1) activities of design and construction aimed at promoting the separation of components for their **eco-friendly management and (2) activities that consider the various impacts of all the product's lifecycle ("from cradle to grave") together with a recognised qualification of manufacturers that are distinguished by these characteristics.**



Promote the turning of waste into a resource-efficient, green and competitive economy. It is important to move towards a better implementation of the existing European legislation, with wiser investment in the EU waste management and recycling sector.



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