



BOATdigest

GUIDELINES ON END-OF-LIFE RECREATIONAL CRAFT FOR REPAIR AND REFIT FACILITIES



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1. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES' STRUCTURE

This document is targeted to **repair and refit facilities** 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.

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 repair and refit facilities concerning this specific 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.

Repair and refit facilities also experience this problem since sometimes boat owners abandon their craft in such facilities. It happens for various reasons, such as financial difficulties, no interest in keeping the boat anymore, lack of information on what to do with the boat the owner no longer wants etc.

Concerning the **current awareness and end-of-life habits of recreational craft owners**, most of them think it is not acceptable to abandon the craft once it is no longer of use and agree that doing so can be a hazard to health, safety and the environment and that making sure their craft is dismantled in an appropriate manner is part of being a responsible owner. Most owners plan to sell their boat when they deem it to be no longer suitable for their requirements and many would rather donate it to someone they knew would take good care of it before dismantling or recycling their boat. Many owners would not be willing to pay anything for dismantling and recycling their craft and there is a great lack of information among them in relation to end-of-life matters.



3. ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY REPAIR AND REFIT COMPANIES



Provide information (mailings, leaflets or similar) to recreational craft owners on disposal options and this way, decrease the number of abandoned recreational craft.



Inform recreational craft owners about existing dismantling locations in the area.

Boat owners usually do not know how to find recreational craft dismantlers to dispose of their boat and this lack of information could encourage them to carry out bad practices, such as boat abandonment.



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>



Provide information in relation to the impact on the marine environment and on land of the abandoned end-of-life recreational craft



Display the material on end-of-life craft, made available for repair and refit companies in strategic places in their facilities



Explain to recreational craft owners that in some countries marinas carry out dismantling activities (usually in the boatyard within and/or next to the marina)



Provide recreational craft owners with information on boat maintenance to avoid fast deterioration of boats and in order to avoid associated risks, such as leakage or spills of liquid wastes and/or detachment of solid wastes, fire accidents, sinking, occupational accidents, etc.



Encourage owners to do a periodical hull-cleaning, according to the status of their recreational craft, in order to avoid biofouling related impacts



Inform recreational craft owners willing to keep their boat “forever” about the measures which need to be taken in order to maintain the boat in a good condition and not harm environment and in order to keep a good resale value of the boat in future



Create a waste management system in their facilities



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