

The Green Blue

Making the environment second nature

The Green Guide to Coastal Boating



A joint BMF and RYA Initiative

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The Green Blue is an innovative environmental programme developed by the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association.

To help you think and act in a more environmentally conscious way, **The Green Blue** has designed this simple guide which is packed with advice and tips.

We hope it will inform the recreational boating community about their environmental impacts, emphasising how they can avoid or minimise these effects by taking a few simple steps.

The Green Blue is for everyone who enjoys getting out on the water, or whose livelihood depends on boats and watersports. By working towards an environmentally sustainable boating community, we can save money, avoid red tape and safeguard the waters and habitats we enjoy for the future.

Find out more at:

www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Making the environment second nature

How to...

use oil & fuels

What's the problem?

Only about 5% of oil and fuel pollution in the water is from catastrophic spills, the majority comes from every day sources such as refuelling, engine emissions and oil leaks. The legal limit for oil and fuel in water discharge is roughly one drop of oil in two litres of water (15mg/l). Any more and wildlife and habitats can suffer.

What can I do?

- Check the bilge is free from oil before pumping.
- Use an absorbent sock to control oil and fuel in the bilge.
- Make sure you use a large enough funnel if you have to refuel onboard.
- Maintain fuel lines, connections and seals to avoid leaks.
- Transfer waste oil and fuel in proper containers.
- Remember that oily or fuel-soaked materials are considered hazardous waste so dispose of them in appropriate facilities.
- Avoid overfilling the tank and allow room for the fuel to expand.
- Never use detergent to deal with spills – it may disperse the fuel or oil and save you embarrassment, but it can do even more damage.
- On shore try not to use oil and fuel within ten metres of the water.
- Use a fuel collar to catch drips or blowback when refuelling.

Where can I find out more?

For your nearest disposal centre:

– www.oilbankline.org.uk

Key facts and legislation:

– www.environment-agency.gov.uk/oilcare

Report incidents in England, Wales and Scotland on the 24 hour pollution hotline
0800 80 70 60

Waste information for businesses at:

– www.wastedirectory.org.uk



How to...

clean your boat

What's the problem?

Most detergents contain phosphates which can cause algal blooms and oxygen depletion and can suffocate aquatic life. Products used on boat hulls and decks can also contain chlorine, ammonia, potassium hydroxide and solvents as well as other chemicals which can affect the way wildlife feeds, breathes and breeds.

What can I do?

- Choose environmentally friendly products for cleaning and maintaining your boat. Avoid chlorine, bleach products and phosphates in particular.
- Use non-toxic solutions wherever possible, water and elbow grease are great!
- Waxing your hull keeps you fuel efficient and reduces the need for cleaning products.
- If you have a washing machine onboard use a detergent-free washball.
- Avoid spreading marine non native species by thoroughly scrubbing your dinghy, trailer and other possibly contaminated items such as anchors, especially in areas where they have been identified.

Where can I find out more?

Where to buy environmentally friendly cleaning products for your boat

– www.sailingnetworks.com/green

Marine non native species – www.marlin.ac.uk/marine_alien

– www.nonnativespecies.org



How to...

renew your anti-fouling

What's the problem?

Anti-fouling paints work largely by releasing biocides (pesticides) into the water. Most paints and used brushes, rollers and trays are now classified as hazardous waste. These toxins can build up in the food chain and cause wide ranging environmental problems.

What can I do?

- Prevent anti-fouling from unnecessarily entering the water. Catch scrapings and drips by skirting the hull and using a tarpaulin. Don't leave a coloured patch under your boat!
- Only scrub off the fouling and not the paint especially when using scrubbing piles.
- Encourage your marina, club or boatyard to collect and properly dispose of wash down residues.
- Select the right antifoul for you, choosing the lowest levels of biocides and copper suitable for your needs. There is an a-z of antifoul at www.thegreenblue.org.uk
- Use low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) or water-based paints where possible.
- Look into more environmentally friendly bottom paints such as vinyl or silicone.

Where can I find out more?

Recommendations and regulations

– www.environment-agency.gov.uk search term 'antifoul'

– www.sepa.org.uk search term 'antifoul'

Information on paints – www.boatpaint.co.uk

A-Z and rough guide to antifoul – www.thegreenblue.org.uk



How to...

watch your waste

What's the problem?

It is estimated that more than a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles die every year worldwide from entanglement, or ingestion of plastics such as balloons and plastic bags. Beach litter has increased by 80% in the last 10 years and it costs up to £25,000 each year to remove the rubbish from the water in some harbours.

What can I do?

- Don't throw anything over the side, including food.
- If you smoke, keep a butt tin in your pocket for cigarette ends.
- Use starch-based rubbish bags which can be composted.
- Prevent loose items from blowing overboard.
- Remove excess packaging and recycle it at home.
- Recycle more – it's the same quantity of waste just a little more effort.
- Reduce waste, refill water bottles for example.
- Don't contaminate general waste by throwing hazardous items in the wrong container e.g. paint tins, oily rags and old electronic instruments.

Where can I find out more?

Find local recycling facilities

– www.recycle-more.co.uk

Recycling and waste advice

– www.wasteonline.org.uk

RYA/BMF's Guide to Port Waste

– www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/clubsclass/Premises/Pages/Managingwasteashore.aspx



How to...

use resources sustainably

What's the problem?

Global warming is now accepted fact by the world's scientists, so sea level rise and more extreme weather conditions will have a significant effect on the recreational boating community. Increased flood risk may mean the loss of some water side facilities, damage to existing facilities and increase in insurance prices.

What can I do?

- Everyone has a responsibility to cut their emissions. Consider the alternatives available – from electric and biodiesel engines to water lubricated stern glands.
- Change to low energy electrics and use solar or wind energy where you can.
- Think about emissions and ability to recycle when buying kit or craft. Ask about the environmental policies of businesses and manufacturers before you buy.
- Try to only use FSC certified wood from responsibly managed forests.
- Keep your hull clean, engine running efficiently and trim the engine to minimise fuel consumption. Set off earlier so you can sail all the way!
- Buy local produce as much as possible.

Where can I find out more?

Information about sustainability

– www.sd-commission.org.uk

Makes sense of climate change

– www.stopclimatechaos.org

– www.ukcip.org.uk

Reduce your carbon footprint

– www.carbontrust.co.uk

– www.carbonneutral.com

– www.energysavingtrust.co.uk

Fill up on biodiesel

– www.biodieselfillingstations.co.uk



discharge sewage

What's the problem?

Untreated sewage from boats can spread gastroenteritis, contaminate shell fish beds and mussel ropes and use up vital oxygen in the water. Human waste also contains phosphorous and nitrogen which increase levels of algae and reduce water clarity. Chemicals such as chlorine, formaldehyde, ammonium and zinc compounds used to disinfect, breakdown and deodorise waste are toxic to marine life.

What can I do?

- Only use sea toilets in the open sea where waste will be quickly diluted and dispersed.
- Always use pump-out facilities where available. If you have to empty your tanks only do so more than 3 miles offshore.
- Take extra care in areas of poor tidal flushing, such as marinas, or where there are shell fish beds. Use shore side facilities where possible.
- Chemical toilets must be emptied ashore into the regular sewage system. Plan ahead – they can be difficult to carry and few pump out facilities will accept chemical toilet waste.
- Consider fitting a holding tank to your boat, it is law in some European countries.
- Always give consideration to the environmental sensitivity of the area before using your sea toilet.

Where can I find out more?

Regulated under Annex IV of MARPOL

– www.imo.org

Directory of pump-out facilities

– www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Special Areas of Conservation

– www.ukmarinesac.org.uk



How to...

cut noise & exhaust fumes

What's the problem?

Noise and exhaust fumes are unpleasant and can spoil our enjoyment of a peaceful day on the water. What's more, noise can have a detrimental effect on the wildlife that lives and breeds along our waterways, and exhaust fumes contribute to poor air quality.

What can I do about it?

- Regularly service your engine to lower fuel costs and emissions.
- Use CE marked outboard engines manufactured after 2005 or electric engines to increase fuel efficiency, reduce noise and decrease emissions.
- Fitting sound insulation around the engine can cut noise by 85%.
- Vibration absorbers can also reduce structural noise by 85%.
- Consider an electric powered craft. They have low emissions and are very quiet.
- Try switching to biodegradable hydraulic and lubricating oils.

Where can I find out more?

Electric boats – www.electric-boat-association.org.uk

Go shopping at the Green Directory – www.sailingnetworks.com/green



How to...

avoid spreading non-native invasive species

What's the problem?

Invasive (alien) species are introduced non-native species that have become established outside their normal habitat or native country. It is estimated that the threat to biodiversity from these invaders is second only to that of habitat loss. There are currently about 140 aquatic non-native species in Britain. Many species thrive in both salt and fresh water. Their main means of spreading is via boat hulls or propellers, or within bilge or engine cooling water systems.

What can I do?

- When recovering a boat or dinghy drain all the water from the boat including buckets, sails etc.
- Always remove any visible plant, fish, animal matter and mud and put it in the bin.
- For boats kept in the water permanently, hull fouling is the main means of transfer. Clean your hull regularly to minimise the risk, paying particular attention to the propeller, prop shaft, bottom of the keel, anchor chains as well as water inlets and outlets. Consider pulling the boat out if you don't need it for a while.
- Try not to run through water plants and weed. This chops up the plants and can spread them further.

Where can I find out more?

Report sightings in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

- Call 0800 80 70 60
- Visit – www.nonnativespecies.org

Identify non-native invasive species

- www.marlin.ac.uk/marine_alien
- www.nonnativespecies.org

Species introduced since 1700 – www.introduced-species.co.uk

- www.direct.gov.uk/checkcleandry



How to spot...

non-native invasive species

Carpet Sea Squirt

Didemnum vexillum

Pale orange, cream or off-white colonies forming extensive, thin sheets. Firm, leathery texture and veined or marbled appearance. Recorded in marinas and adjacent shallow artificial submerged structures. Can also occur on natural cobble or gravel seabed to 80m depth, in tide pools on shore, in seagrass beds and in aquaculture installations.



Photo courtesy of CCW

Killer Shrimp

Dikergammarus villosus

A highly invasive shrimp, larger than native freshwater shrimp species, growing up to 30mm in length. Often has a striped appearance.

A voracious predator, killing invertebrates and small fish. They require hard banks, slow flowing water and are salt tolerant so can also colonise brackish coastal habitats.

Photo courtesy of EA



Wireweed

Sargassum muticum

A large olive brown seaweed with fronds over 1m long. A main axis bears alternating secondary branches giving it a washing line appearance out of water. Grows on hard surfaces in rock pools and in shallow water.

Wireweed competes with native seaweeds and seagrasses through rapid-growth, shading and abrasion. It is a nuisance in harbours and shallow waters where it is a hazard to boating (entanglement of propellers).

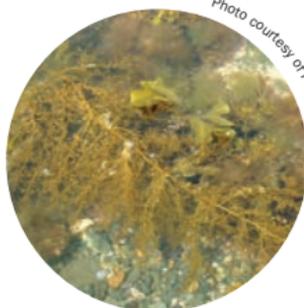


Photo courtesy of Paul Barber, CCW

Chinese Mitten Crab

Eriocheir sinensis

A large crab with a maximum body length of 56 mm. The body is quite square in outline. Olive green colour with paler legs, which are twice the length of the body. The most obvious distinguishing feature is the dense mat of hair on the claws. Juveniles occur in lower estuaries and marine habitats. As they develop, young crabs migrate upstream, into freshwater and brackish systems.

Photo courtesy of Stephan Gollasch



appreciate wildlife

What's the problem?

The world's oceans support an estimated 10 million species but less than 3% have been identified. Our waters are also home to the world's second largest fish, the Basking Shark. Annually the UK hosts almost 6 million migratory waterbirds, which is almost 50% of the EU's population! However numbers are falling most likely because of climate change and pressure from development and disturbance.

What can I do about it?

- Check pilot books, charts, and local guides to find out if the areas you are visiting are protected and why.
- Keep your distance, use binoculars!
- Keep noise and wash to a minimum. See more by disturbing less.
- Small craft can reach shallow, more sensitive areas. Avoid stirring up the bottom or disturbing vegetation and wildlife, take care where you anchor.
- Keep a constant speed and direction when you spot whales and dolphins, read a copy of The Green Blue's Green Marine Wildlife Guide.
- Keep a record of your sightings and report them at www.wdcs.org.uk.

Where can I find out more?

Get trained – www.wisescheme.org

Report sightings – www.wdcs.org.uk

Identify those birds – www.rspb.org.uk

Get the facts – www.english-nature.org.uk

Join a beach clean – www.mcsuk.org

Protect areas – www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4



How to spot... **wildlife**

Common or harbour seal

Phoca vitulina

Adult grows to between 1.2 to 1.9m. Muzzle short and concave. Face has a dog-like appearance. Coat has mottled pattern of spots, varies in colour from light grey to dark brown. Nostrils joined at base in a 'V' shape. Frequents sandbanks in estuaries and rocky coasts.



Leatherback turtle

Dermochelys coriacea

Largest turtle in world, grows up to 3m. Distinctive soft shell with longitudinal ridges. Black with white spots.



Common dolphin

Delphinus delphis

1.6 to 2.6m in length
Slender, torpedo shape and hourglass pattern. Often has pale grey centre. Cream or yellow patches on sides near head. Very active and agile, often jumping and somersaulting. Sometimes travels in large groups.



Basking shark

Cetorhinus maximus

Second largest fish in the world. Grows up to 11m in length. Large, angular dorsal fin. Cavernous mouth, white inside. Swims slowly at surface feeding. Seen most often in summer.



For more information or to search the database of scientific papers visit **www.thegreenblue.org.uk**. The site is packed with practical advice, case studies and information on green products to help you save money, protect water quality and habitats and ultimately, safeguard the future of boating.

Find out more at:

www.thegreenblue.org.uk

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The Green Blue

A joint BMF & RYA Initiative
RYA House, Ensign Way
Hamble, Southampton
SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4100
Fax: 023 8060 4294
info@thegreenblue.org.uk

www.thegreenblue.org.uk

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