

**PRINCIPLES TO BE RETAINED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDELINES
ON THE RESPECT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
BY PLEASURE CRAFT ACTIVITIES
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Section I. General principles

.1 Definitions

The following definitions apply to these terms:

1. “Pleasure craft” means all kinds of craft using any type of propulsion system, be it privately owned or chartered, used for pleasure, sport or leisure.
2. “Pollution” means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, within the framework of pleasure craft activities, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, which results or is likely to result, in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazard to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of seawater and reduction of amenities.
3. “Biological diversity” means the variability of living organisms from all sources including *inter alia* terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complex of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
4. “Authorities” means the competent national authorities entitled to ensure maritime safety and to protect the marine environment.
5. “Marina” means all reception and berthing facilities for pleasure craft, specifically intended or equipped for this purpose, including zones reserved for pleasure craft in those ports that are accessible to all types of vessels.
6. “Contracting Parties” means Contracting Parties to the 1976 Barcelona Convention (Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution), as amended in 1995 (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean).

.2 Application

The guidelines should apply to pleasure craft, marinas and relevant facilities.

Section II. Principles relating to prevention of pollution by pleasure craft and protection of the marine environment

.1 Polluting discharges

- a) The Contracting Parties should prohibit operational discharges consisting of oil or oily mixtures, sewage and garbage, as provided respectively in MARPOL, Annex I, IV and V.

- b) The Contracting Parties should take all necessary measures to prevent spillages into the sea of pleasure craft fuel during refuelling operations.

.2 Retention on board of polluting wastes

The Contracting Parties should ensure that the operational wastes referred to in Section II, Point 1 are kept on board in tanks or other storage containers until their disposal in appropriate reception facilities.

.3 Anti-fouling systems

- a) Contracting Parties should prohibit the use, by pleasure-craft, of anti-fouling systems as provided in the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.
- b) Contracting Parties should take the appropriate measures in order to collect, handle, process and dispose of wastes originating from anti-fouling systems mentioned in the above paragraph, so as to protect human health and the environment.

.4 Exhaust gas emissions

- a) With reference to MARPOL Convention, Annex VI, the Contracting Parties should establish maximum levels allowed for exhaust gas and particle emissions originating from pleasure craft engines.
- b) The Contracting Parties should develop quality standards for the fuels used by pleasure craft with a view to reducing harmful exhaust gas and particle emission to the levels stipulated under paragraph a).

.5 Sound emissions

The Contracting Parties should establish maximum levels permitted for sound emissions from engine-powered pleasure craft.

.6 Principles related to reporting procedure from pleasure craft

Each Party should issue instructions to skippers or any other persons in charge of pleasure craft, to report to the nearest Coastal State authorities, by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, the presence, characteristics and extent of pollution of the marine environment observed at sea.

Section III. Principles relating to protective measures

.1 Water sports activities

The Contracting Parties should, individually or in cooperation with one another, ensure that recreational craft activities, including competitive events and other water sports events, do not jeopardize life at sea nor cause undue harm to the environment.

.2 Specially protected sea areas

In accordance with international law and considering the characteristics of each specially protected sea area in the Mediterranean, the Contracting Parties should regulate the passage of pleasure craft as well as any stopping or mooring within such areas inside their territorial waters.

.3 Protection of marine fauna and flora and ecosystems

- a) The Contracting Parties should request all pleasure craft to respect international, regional and national regulations, with regard to protection and the safeguarding of marine fauna and flora.
- b) The Contracting Parties should take all necessary measures of a regulatory and administrative nature, to preserve from the impacts of pleasure craft marine activities coastal ecosystems in general, protected areas, and in particular the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI).

.4 Protection of underwater archaeological heritage

The Contracting Parties should take all necessary measures with the aim of preventing any impact, by pleasure craft, on the underwater heritage, if such impact would constitute an infringement of national or international laws.

Section IV. Principles relating to marinas

.1 Operation of marinas

- a) The Contracting Parties should undertake to carry out environmental impact assessment prior to the construction or development of marinas.
- b) The Contracting Parties should take all necessary measures with the aim of eliminating the discharge into the sea of wastewater and other wastes generated by the operation of marinas.

.2 Development of marinas

- a) The Contracting Parties should foster the development of necessary reception facilities for pleasure craft in their marinas, and should keep each other informed of progress made in this regard. They should attach particular importance to the standardisation of equipment and, to this end, should establish all the useful links with the competent bodies in this field.
- b) The Contracting Parties should ensure the development, for their marinas, of plans for the management and processing of operational wastes collected *in situ*.

.3 Environmental awareness

The Contracting Parties should ensure that persons involved in the administration and management of marinas have the knowledge to deal with issues related to protection of the marine environment.

Section V. Principles relating to administrative measures

.1 Craft identification

The Contracting Parties should, as far as reasonable and practicable, introduce into their legislation, if they have not already done so, a system by means of which pleasure craft falling under their jurisdiction may be identified.

.2 Crew qualification

The Contracting Parties should, as far as reasonable and practicable, taking into account the characteristics of the pleasure craft, ensure that the skipper or any other person in charge of the operation of a pleasure craft is adequately qualified to operate the craft safely.

.3 Craft insurance

The Contracting Parties should, as far as reasonable and practicable, ensure that the pleasure craft are covered by an appropriate insurance.

.4 Communications and reports

The Contracting Parties should communicate to REMPEC with the shortest possible delay, their legislative and statutory texts regulating pleasure craft activities, the modifications made thereto, as well as the status of implementation of the Guidelines. REMPEC should in turn transmit such information to other Contracting Parties.

Section VI. Principles relating to monitoring and control of pleasure craft activities

In conformity with international law, the competent authorities should exercise monitoring and control of pleasure craft activities and take any measures that they are entitled to apply in the marine areas under their sovereignty or jurisdiction.