

Agenda Item 2.2

Review of New Information on Threats and  
Other Issues Relevant to Small Cetaceans

Recreational Sea Use

**Document 2.2**

Guidance Materials to Mitigate Impacts of  
Recreational Speed Crafts

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Provide guidance

Submitted by

Intersessional Working Group



*Note: Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.*

## GUIDANCE MATERIALS TO MITIGATE IMPACTS OF RECREATIONAL SPEED CRAFTS

1. The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee requested the Secretariat to establish a Working Group to “provide guidance materials to interested Parties on the best ways to mitigate impacts in light of rapid increases in recreational speed craft (RIBs, power boats, and personal watercrafts) in many parts of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area, and concerns for the potential negative impacts upon small cetaceans and other marine wildlife through disturbance (including risk of physical injury). [...]” (AC27/AP18).
2. Below is a list of materials found:
  - Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. (2023). *Marine and coastal wildlife code: Advice for visitors*. GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-and-coastal-wildlife-code/marine-and-coastal-wildlife-code-advice-for-visitors>
  - Grundy, E. C. (2021). *Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) behavioural responses to recreational craft*. [https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Elliot-Grundy-MSc-thesis\\_2021.pdf](https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Elliot-Grundy-MSc-thesis_2021.pdf)
  - Koroza, A., & Evans, P. G. H. (2022). Bottlenose Dolphin Responses to Boat Traffic Affected by Boat Characteristics and Degree of Compliance to Code of Conduct. *Sustainability*, 14(9), 5185. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14095185> ([https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Koroza-Evans\\_2022-1.pdf](https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Koroza-Evans_2022-1.pdf))
  - Vergara-Peña, A. (2020). *Effects of marine recreation on bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay*. [https://research.bangor.ac.uk/portal/files/34707125/Vergara\\_Pena\\_thesis\\_2020A.Vergara\\_Pena\\_a\\_Thesis\\_2020July\\_1.pdf](https://research.bangor.ac.uk/portal/files/34707125/Vergara_Pena_thesis_2020A.Vergara_Pena_a_Thesis_2020July_1.pdf)
3. In addition, the following materials were found from the 2022 ASCOBANS National Reports:
 

Denmark:

  - Code of conduct for whale watching industry may also be applied to recreational sea use [https://mst.dk/media/248420/guidelines\\_hvalturisme2022\\_tilaengeligt.pdf](https://mst.dk/media/248420/guidelines_hvalturisme2022_tilaengeligt.pdf).

Germany:

  - Ordinance on driving on federal waterways in national parks in the North Sea area (Verordnung über das Befahren der Bundeswasserstraßen in Nationalparks im Bereich der Nordsee) <https://www.recht.bund.de/bgbl/1/2023/113/VO>.

United Kingdom:

  - Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-coasts-and-seas/scottish-marine-wildlife-watching-code>. The main purpose of the code is to raise awareness and offer practical guidance for responsible marine wildlife watching.
  - Welsh local codes of conduct <https://wildseas.wales/respect/> .

- WiSe Scheme <https://www.wisescheme.org>. A training scheme for minimizing wildlife disturbance, for commercial boat operators and the general public.
  - Sea Watch Foundation <https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/marine-code-of-conduct/>. Best practice advice for recreational activities.
  - The Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code - <https://cornwallmarinelifecode.org.uk/>. A code of conduct promoting best practice for encountering marine life in Cornwall, supported by a dedicated group and data collection of local wildlife disturbance incidences.
  - RYA The Green Blue <https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge/planning-licensing/the-green-blue>. Guidance providing practical advice and information for recreational boaters, watersports participants, and marine businesses to act in a considerate and environmentally conscious way.
  - The Blue Flag <https://www.blueflag.global/our-programme>. Award programme with stringent standards for boating tourism operators to meet in order to be awarded certification.
  - The Pembrokeshire Marine Code <https://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/>.
  - Jersey Marine and Coastal code <https://www.gov.je/Environment/LandMarineWildlife/Mammals/Pages/Dolphins.aspx>.
  - The Northumberland Marine Wildlife Watching Boating Code of Conduct <http://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/documents-and-links/codes-of-conduct/>.
  - Thanet Marine Wildlife Watching Code <http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/factfile/thanet-coastal-codes/marinewildlife-watching-code/>.
  - The Dolphin Space Programme <http://www.dolphinspace.org/>. An accreditation scheme for wildlife tour boat operators in the Moray Firth.
4. Guidance is sought from the Advisory Committee on whether this list of materials would be useful on the ASCOBANS website under '[Guidelines](#)'.