



EBI Newsletter

January 2025

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EU News

HELCOM guidance for biofouling management on recreational boats

The Regional Seas Action Plan for the Baltic Sea, consisting of national authorities in all countries bordering the Baltic Sea has issued a new guidance document for biofouling management on recreational craft. It also applies for the OSPAR region, consisting of all countries in the North-East Atlantic.

The guidance summarises biofouling management options for freshwater bodies and marine waters. The primary aim is to draw attention to the problems associated with biofouling on recreational craft and trailers. The aim is to reduce the risk of transferring invasive species via biofouling, tackling increased fuel consumption and CO2 emissions due to hull fouling and discharge of hazardous substances and waste particles from anti-fouling systems (AFS).

The Biofouling Check List for the development of a biofouling management plan and the biofouling record book can act a toolbox. Recreational craft owners can choose between the different options and customise them to the individual recreational craft, its region and personal usage- and maintenance profile. The checklist is a tool to select a suitable, and sustainable AFS, and/or suitable maintenance measures. This guidance focuses on best practices for biofouling management without specifying techniques and personal safety requirements of each strategy. However, in order to minimize health and environmental risks when dealing with AFS, it is recommended to follow the manufacturer's and the safety sheets of AFS.

These recommendations can be used by different stakeholders, such as marinas, yards, boater associations, craft owners, administrations and other experts. The full guidance document can be found [here](#).

Polish Presidency of the Council sets course for sustainable tourism and maritime innovation

Poland has assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January 1 to June 30, 2025. This marks Poland's second term in this role, following its previous presidency in 2011.

In the tourism sector, the Presidency will focus on promoting Europe as a safe and competitive destination while advancing sustainable tourism. Efforts to enhance traveller protection and simplify aspects of the Package Travel Directive (PTD) are also underway, potentially benefiting the nautical tourism sector by improving legal clarity for charter operators and travel service providers. Additionally, Poland aims to increase the attractiveness of less popular coastal and peripheral regions, which could further boost nautical tourism opportunities.

On the regulatory front, the Polish Presidency will continue negotiations on the Green Claims Directive, an essential tool for combating greenwashing. Ensuring transparent and verifiable

environmental claims is crucial for the boating sector as sustainability becomes a key market driver. In maritime transport, work will continue on the revision of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) regulation to strengthen safety, security, and environmental standards while supporting the green and digital transition of the sector.

These developments will be closely monitored by the European Boating Industry, ensuring that the interests of the industry are well represented. More information can be found at the following [link](#).

EU and Mercosur finalise landmark partnership agreement

The EU and Mercosur have reached a landmark agreement aimed at deepening strategic, economic, and sustainability ties. The agreement, which finalises years of negotiations, is set to bring significant benefits for industries on both sides, including the boating and nautical tourism sector.

Under this partnership, mutual trade opportunities will expand, eliminating high export duties and fostering access to critical raw materials vital for green technologies. Sustainability plays a key role, with commitments to halt deforestation and align with the Paris Agreement objectives. This milestone could offer benefits to European boatbuilders and suppliers looking to increase exports to South America.

The proposal will now move through procedural steps before full implementation, including approval by the EU Council and Parliament.

Read the EU Commission press release [here](#).

EU Commission responds to MEP question on developing yachting tourism in Greece

The EU Commission has responded to a written question from MEP Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR) regarding the development of yachting tourism in Greece. The question highlighted the sector's growing importance for coastal economies, particularly in the Adriatic-Ionian region, and pointed to challenges such as limited infrastructure and a shortage of skilled professionals.

In its response, the EU Commission emphasised that funding for marina infrastructure, boat repair facilities, and other tourism projects is available through the 2021-2027 regional programmes, including cross-border cooperation under the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy. Additionally, the *GR-eco Islands* initiative aims to support sustainable tourism and energy transition on selected Greek islands.

Regarding the training and qualification of maritime professionals, the Commission cited Directive (EU) 2022/993, which sets EU-wide standards for the training and certification of seafarers. Other EU directives address safety and medical requirements for workers on board vessels, ensuring a strong legal framework for maritime labour.

On the issue of yachts registered under foreign flags, often for tax or regulatory reasons, the Commission stated that it currently has no plans to introduce new legislation to address this practice.

Find here the [question](#) and [answer](#).

New EU study highlights opportunities and challenges of silver tourism

A recent study commissioned by the European Parliament examines the growing significance of *silver tourism*, a key segment of the longevity economy that caters to older travellers. With the EU's population over 65 expected to reach 30% by 2050, tourism spending by those aged 55+ is projected to more than double, reaching €369.5 billion by 2040.

The study identifies six key categories within silver tourism—wellness, accessible, medical, multi-generational, smart tourism, and international retirement migration (IRM). It highlights both opportunities and challenges in these sectors, including barriers related to accessibility, infrastructure, and ageism.

For the recreational boating sector, this presents an opportunity to develop new services and products tailored to the needs of older tourists, such as accessible marinas, boat rental packages designed for multi-generational travel, and wellness-themed cruises. Silver tourism can help boost off-season revenue and create year-round demand for nautical tourism services, contributing to the resilience and growth of coastal economies.

Policy recommendations from the study include developing an EU roadmap for silver tourism, enhancing EU-wide cooperation, and promoting inclusive marketing and training initiatives. The recommendations also emphasise the need for stronger research, data collection, and funding to support sustainable tourism infrastructure.

For more details, access the study [here](#).

EBI in Action

ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA to develop first globally aligned recreational marine Life Cycle Assessment

Leading marine trade associations, the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA), European Boating Industry (EBI), and National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) announced they are joining together to develop a global recreational marine lifecycle assessment (LCA) framework. This partnership establishes the first-ever global collaboration to assess, measure and report the industry's environmental performance of recreational boats. This first-ever collaboration unites the global recreational marine industry to accelerate progress in developing a shared approach to quantifying environmental performance across a range of technologies.

As part of ongoing efforts to demonstrate environmental stewardship and harmonise global sustainability initiatives, and the recreational marine industry is committed to achieving a comprehensive framework that provides a methodology that quantifies the environmental

performance of a recreational boat through every phase of its life, including raw materials, production, use phase, disposal and recycling.

EBI and NMMA recognise that ensuring the long-term resilience of the recreational marine industry requires forward-thinking sustainability strategies that balance business growth with responsible practices. Developing a global approach to assessing the full lifecycle of products is a critical step in helping manufacturers make informed decisions that strengthen their operations, supply chains, and product design while meeting evolving market expectations. This work will provide a practical framework for companies to innovate and support a long-standing commitment to the environment that ensures future generations' continued ability to enjoy the unique experiences boating provides. The LCA work builds on the Propelling Our Future initiative, a global industry effort to equip the industry with knowledge on the multiple technologies needed to move the industry toward decarbonisation.

“EBI has been developing an LCA methodology for the European market given some of our members' more immediate needs and the collaboration with ICOMIA and NMMA provides a long-term globally aligned solution. The final collaborative LCA methodology will allow us to improve environmental performance and transform the future of the global industry. We are glad to open our doors to our global partners to work on the next phase,” said Robert Marx, President of EBI. “A harmonised lifecycle assessment is crucial to moving the industry forward in lockstep—from eco-design to navigating the regulatory landscape and ensuring we continue to do our part to protect the environment.”

ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA will complete an extensive review of LCA methodologies to identify the most relevant approach for the global market, building on the projects already completed or underway with EBI's Blue Boat Horizon project and ICOMIA's Marine Engine Committee (IMEC). In addition to the methodology, the global recreational marine lifecycle assessment project will ultimately include the development of standard inventory databases, tools, communications materials and educational initiatives to help manufacturers and other marine organisations.

As the LCA is built, ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA will convene a global task force with involvement from associations and companies around the world. The joint task force will consist of several committees focused on technical input and guidance; assessing and preparing for a successful rollout of the final LCA; industry education and training; and public policy/affairs and communications.

Digital submission of pleasure craft report for leaving or entering UK on a pleasure boat

With support from British Marine, the UK Home Office has implemented the “Submit a Pleasure Craft Report (sPCR) web service”. The Home Office is working to raise awareness of the **Submit a Pleasure Craft Report (sPCR) web service** and the updated reporting requirements for skippers, operators, and agents when entering or leaving the UK by pleasure craft.

The sPCR is voluntary (at the moment) and free to use, enables digitised submission of information about vessels, voyages, and onboard persons or goods. It helps users comply with reporting

requirements in advance of travel. Ahead of these reporting requirements being made mandatory it is essential that pleasure craft operators are informed of the changes.

EBI encourages its members to work with stakeholders for whom this is relevant and promote the use of the sPCR towards boaters travelling to the UK.

The **sPCR digital folder** below includes posters in multiple languages: Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Welsh, and English: [sPCR Album](#)

A detailed guide can also be found here: [sPCR How-to guide](#)

European Boating Industry welcomes Bulgaria as newest member

EBI held its first General Assembly of the year during boot Düsseldorf, welcoming the Bulgarian Association of Boating Industry (BABI) as its newest member. With this addition, EBI now represents 30 members across Europe, further strengthening its advocacy for the recreational boating sector.

BABI was founded by Elica Yard, LZ Yachting 1991, Crooze Yachts Bulgaria, and Dream Sea Yachting to position Bulgaria as a high-quality yacht-building hub. The association aims to boost the country's marine industry by supporting yacht manufacturers, brokers, and charter companies, while also encouraging yachting as a leisure activity.

This new partnership reflects the commitment of the European boating industry to sustainable growth and innovation. For the full press release, follow the [link](#).

VisionAnchor Wins Startup Competition at the blue innovation dock, boot Düsseldorf 2025

At boot Düsseldorf 2025, Slovenian startup VisionAnchor obtained the first place in the yearly Start-up pitch competition organized by Yachting Ventures and EBI. Their innovative product, the VisionAnchor S buoy, enhances anchoring safety for vessels between 8 to 25 meters by utilizing advanced GPS technology. As the competition winner, VisionAnchor was awarded with media coverage and a complimentary stand for all nine days at next year's boot Düsseldorf.

VisionAnchor has received recognition from esteemed organizations such as EIT Digital and the European Space Agency (ESA). They also participated in the Techstars global startup accelerator in Turin, Italy. Looking ahead, the company plans to scale production in Slovenia and expand into markets including the United States and Australia, actively seeking additional investment to support these ambitions.

EBI is proud to co-host the Start-up competition with Yachting Venture every year on the stage of the blue innovation dock. It is a day dedicated to great ideas and innovative solutions which bring different sectors of the boating industry together.

Member News

The Foiling Organisation at boot Düsseldorf 2025 showcased with the Foiling World

Foiling World made its debut at boot Düsseldorf 2025, offering a cutting-edge showcase of the modern foiling industry. The event featured state-of-the-art technologies, expert discussions, and exhibits ranging from foiling boards to flying electric boats, with industry leaders like Flite and Candela presenting their latest innovations.

Highlights included insights into offshore foiling competitions such as the IMOCA class, The Ocean Race, and the Vendée Globe, alongside advanced safety demonstrations, eSports simulators, and revolutionary concept boats. Renowned sailors Dee Caffari, Elizabeth Tucker, and Cole Brauer also shared their experiences live from the Indian Ocean.

EBI was proud to collaborate with Foiling World at boot Düsseldorf, hosting the President of the Foiling Organisation and other key representatives at the Blue Innovation Dock to showcase groundbreaking and sustainable foiling technologies.

EBI in the News



[The latest EMODnet for Business workshop report "The Power of Marine Data for Ports, Marinas and Boating" showcased at BOOT 2025](#)

[2025 boot Düsseldorf exceeds expectations](#)

[As Trump shreds climate deal, boating sector steps up work on green boats](#)



[Trump starts second term; talks of tariffs & quitting 'green' to stop US decline](#)

[EBI welcomes Bulgaria as its newest member](#)

[EBI Breakfast Meeting: boot Düsseldorf measures the needs of future clients](#)



[boot Düsseldorf 2025: The world's leading trade fair is the industry's driving force](#)



[\[VIDEO\]: European Boating Industry and Epoxy Europe](#)



[\[PODCAST\] EP3: Boating from Brussels with Philip Easthill](#)



[Lietuvos vidaus vandens kelių direkcija apdovanota „European Boating Industry“ renginyje](#)



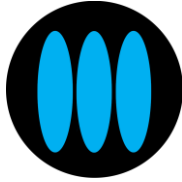
["We are in charge" - Marx on the Green Deal for boats](#)

[Global sustainability initiative for the recreational boating industry announced](#)



[ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA to develop first global recreational marine LCA](#)

[boot 2025 hosts over 200,000 in Düsseldorf](#)



[Nautisme et plaisance - Un 30e membre rejoint European Boating Industry \(EBI\)](#)



[Bulgaria: a new stronghold for Europe's yachting industry?](#)



[VisionAnchor wins pitching competition at Boot Düsseldorf](#)



[ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA to establish marine lifecycle assessment framework](#)



[Organizations Adopt Environmental Performance Standard](#)

Funding

Funding: Upskilling and reskilling the Tourism Ecosystem | Tourism Knowledge hub and Tourism Data Space

- **Objective:** This call for proposal aims at supporting the current policy work on data management and data sharing by developing guidelines on how to participate and use the D3Hub and the future common European tourism data space for destinations and SMEs in the tourism sector.
- **Application deadline:** 13 February 2025
- **More information:** [Link](#).

Funding: Maritime regional cooperation fostering Smart Specialisation and Innovation in the Sustainable Blue Economy

- **Objective:** The objective of this call topic is to animate and underpin the S3 Thematic Platform for Sustainable Blue Economy with strategic interregional partnerships that develop and implement highly innovative solutions addressing priorities in the EU sustainable blue economy (i.e. decarbonisation of the blue economy sectors, energy transition, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, circular blue economy, new forms of aquaculture, including algae, coastal resilience and marine litter prevention, sustainable food systems, and **green coastal and maritime tourism**). This call for proposal is complementary to strand 1 (Interregional Innovation Investments) of the I3 Instrument.
- **Application deadline:** 18 February 2025.
- **More information:** Registration is open at the [CINEA website](#). Here the [link](#) to the call.

Call for proposals: Innovation Fund 2024 Auction - Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production for the maritime sector

- **Objective:** The present call is an auction call for renewable fuel of non-biological origin (RFNBO) hydrogen as defined in the Renewable Energy Directive 2023/24137 and its Delegated Acts. The bid price is the requested unit contribution (fixed premium) per kg of RFNBO hydrogen production which will be paid for a maximum period of up to 10 years. Projects to be funded by this Innovation Fund call are expected to contribute to the transition to a climate-neutral economy by 2050 and to the target to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 as defined in the European Climate Law Regulation 2021/11198 and the European Green Deal 9 and to targets set out in the REPowerEU Plan.
- **Application deadline:** 20 February 2025
- **More Information:** [Link](#)

Funding opportunity: DeremCo 2nd Open Call for circular solutions in the composite industry

- The DeremCo project has launched its 2nd Open Call, offering financial support to SMEs working on circular economy innovations in the composite sector. Projects should aim to develop advanced solutions in material treatment, process improvement, or product applications. The call focuses on key sectors, including nautical, automotive, and construction. Eligible applicants can receive grants of up to €60,000 per entity, with a total project budget of up to €180,000 for consortia. The funding scheme offers 100% coverage of project costs under a simplified lump-sum system.
- **Call opening:** 30 December 2024

- **Application deadline:** 28 February 2025
- For further details and to apply, visit the [DeremCo Open Call page](#).

Project Pipeline: RLCF Alliance Open for Submissions

- **Overview:** The Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance ([RLCF Alliance](#)), from the European Commission [DG MOVE](#), dedicated to advancing renewable and low-carbon fuels in aviation and waterborne sectors, has launched a call for projects for its Alliance Project Pipeline. This aims to facilitate matchmaking between project promoters and partners along the value chain, as well as connect them with finance providers.
- Projects sought across various stages: from early-stage seeking partnerships to near-completed projects.
- Activities may include feedstock sourcing, production, distribution, and technology development.
- EU-based and international projects.
- Additional criteria for non-EU projects to demonstrate a significant link to EU value chains.
- Projects can be submitted by members of the Alliance. Find out more on how to become a member (Free and accessible) and access the pipeline [here](#).

If you would like to promote your events, news or activities in the EBI newsletter, please reach out to the EBI Office (office@europeanboatingindustry.eu)

For more information on ongoing EBI activities, please follow EBI on social media:

