



Falmouth Sailing Week - Environment Policy

Introduction

Falmouth Harbours and the Bay are of very high and important environmental quality, a factor which makes sailing here so attractive and enjoyable. It is essential that the whole community takes a responsible attitude to assist in managing this remarkable asset. The Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA) is committed to minimising the environmental impact of their activities on the environment. The document sets out the steps the event organisers will take to adopt a sustainable approach whilst delivering the best possible event.

Commitment to Sustainability

- Ensure Falmouth Sailing Week (both onshore and at sea) complies with environmental legislation and local byelaws.
- PoFSA will develop an action plan to implement this policy, progressing from education, practical, aspirational and achievable solutions for 2025 with full implementation for 2026.
- Encourage and support the event venues to develop their own Environmental Policies and Action Plans for implementation prior to FSW26.
- Communicate with competitors, officials and volunteers on the environmental expectations of them.
- Communications will be paperless by using the internet, e-mail and WhatsApp messaging.
- Post-event, review any environmental impact and competitor feedback to develop action plans to achieve continuous environmental improvement for future events.

Pollution Prevention

- Support vessels to follow RYA guidance regarding refuelling. Oil and fuel spill kits and no-spill refuelling devices to be fitted to support vessels where appropriate. Associated training for support vessels and staff to be provided. Support boat handlers to notify event organisers of any spills immediately.
- Encourage all safety and committee boats to always maintain appropriate speeds to achieve fuel efficiency and minimise environmental impact, apart from responding to an incident. Use onshore toilet facilities wherever possible (See Appendix A). Follow RYA blackwater guidance (Appendix B).



Waste & Litter Management

- Prohibit overboard discharge of any rubbish including food in line with ISAF rule 55.
- Ensure the provision of plenty of waste bins at each venue with closable lids to stop litter being blown into the water and seagull/vermin attack.
- Locate recycling and general waste bins together for ease of use with clear pictorial signage so as much waste as possible is recycled.

Resource Efficiency

- Avoid single use plastic and ensure competitors are aware of the availability of facilities for refilling water bottles.
- Venues to promote the use of mechanisms such as trigger nozzles on water hoses for washing down boats to improve water efficiency.
- Source products with less packaging to reduce waste.
- Source recycled, recyclable or refurbished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical, and suitable. Use only Forestry Stewardship Council accredited products (paper and wood.)
- Use suppliers, contractors and concessions that show a commitment to sustainability in accordance with RYA guidance (See Appendix C).

Marine Life

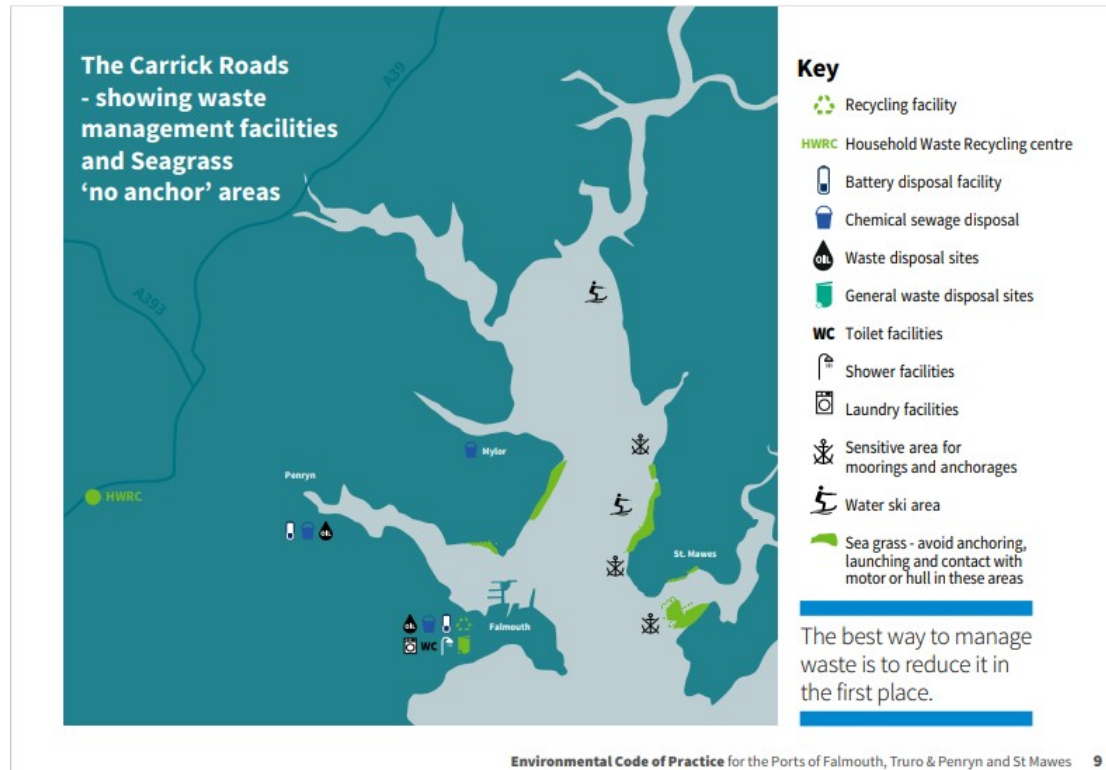
- Keep your course, avoid sudden changes in direction to help wildlife avoid your boat.
- Take note of the sensitive wildlife areas and avoid anchoring and mooring in these areas (See Appendix A).
- Increase awareness. Include information on sensitive habitats/wildlife to be avoided in the Sailing briefings and event documentation.

Gaye Slater
PoFSA Chair
July 2025



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A



Environment Code of Practice (Cornwall Council, SAC Management Forum, Nd)

APPENDIX B

RYA Green Blue Guidance on Blackwater – Full details [here](#)

Blackwater (wastewater and sewage from toilets) is hazardous to public health, adversely affects shellfish beds and adversely affects other marine life. Always consider your impact on the environment and other users of our coastal waters.

- Use facilities on land wherever possible.
- Fitted holding tanks are recommended where practicable.
- Only discharge sea toilets where waste can be quickly diluted and dispersed. Try to discharge more than three nautical miles off the coastline.
- Avoid discharge in shellfish beds, bathing beaches, marinas and environmentally sensitive areas.
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APPENDIX C

RYA Recommended Eco-friendly products: [Click this link for suppliers](#)