



# CRUISING MATTERS

The latest news and views from the Cruising Association.

The CA was founded in 1908 specifically to meet the needs of cruising sailors and provides services, information, help and advice to thousands of members worldwide. For more information visit [www.theca.org.uk](http://www.theca.org.uk).

## FREE GUIDANCE ON NETHERLANDS STANDING MAST ROUTES

The Netherlands Standing Mast Routes are popular passages for sail and motor yachts, providing access to destinations like the Kiel Canal and the Baltic.

The CA's European Inland Waterways Section has released a free guidance note on sources of information on these routes, which supplements the CA's existing 48-page guide.

This note provides up-to-date information on locks, bridges, water levels, draught restrictions and incidents affecting cruising for 2024. It also includes common Q&As and is part of a broader series of free guidance notes covering various cruising regions across the European Inland Waterways. These notes, with hyperlinks and QR codes, are downloadable in PDF format from the EIWS page and complement the CA's purchasable EIWS Cruising Guides for navigating waterways in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. [www.theca.org.uk/public/sections/eiws](http://www.theca.org.uk/public/sections/eiws)



Image: Andy Millard/CA Cruising Association

## THE 2024 SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW



Stand J419  
Ocean Hall

SOUTHAMPTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
BOAT SHOW  
13-22 SEPTEMBER 2024

This year you can find the CA on stand J419 in Ocean Hall at the Southampton International Boat Show, 13 - 22 September. They will be showcasing the support and expertise they provide for your UK, European and worldwide adventures.

Visitors can learn about CA membership benefits, explore CAptain's

Mate and attend drop-in sessions on key cruising topics. The CA will also launch the 2025 Cruising Almanac, host prize draws and you can take advantage of a special 20 per cent off new member offer. Members can also dive into plenty of discounts from marine partners.

[www.theca.org.uk/southamptonboatshow](http://www.theca.org.uk/southamptonboatshow)

## GREEK MARITIME LAWS REVISED

Following extensive lobbying by the CA, the Greek government has revised maritime laws for vessels with a third country (non-EU) flag.

Now vessels that can demonstrate the status of Union Goods (i.e. EU VAT paid) will receive a Transit Log of Unlimited Duration (UTL) and no longer need to check into and out of every controlled port. Non-Union Goods vessels will receive an 18-month Transit Log and must still check in and out. Find out more at [www.theca.org.uk/news/greek-utl-update](http://www.theca.org.uk/news/greek-utl-update).

## EASIER CRUISING TO FRANCE

The CA has welcomed a new protocol announced by French officials that simplifies the check-in and check-out process for small boats entering France from outside the EU.

From 1 June, 53 marinas, which are not Ports of Entry (PPFs), are authorised to handle boats arriving from or departing to non-EU/Schengen areas. Skippers must email a specific form to the relevant port before arrival or departure, with local officials processing these forms. You can view the list of ports (as at 31 May 2024) at [www.theca.org.uk/news/france-easier-check-in-out](http://www.theca.org.uk/news/france-easier-check-in-out).

## CA'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

The CA has announced the National Coastwatch Institution as its charity partner.

The NCI has touched thousands of people's lives over the last three decades through their vital work in safeguarding life at sea along the coastline of England and Wales. The CA is proud to endorse charities that contribute to the safety and well-being of the on-water community.



Established in 1994, the NCI relies on charitable support to help maintain a visual and radio watch. Together with HM Coastguard and the RNLI, the NCI is an integral part of maritime search and rescue efforts.

This partnership underscores the support the CA has provided to NCI over the years, and the CA is proud to formally recognise the longstanding relationship. [www.nci.org.uk](http://www.nci.org.uk)

## CRUISING MAGAZINE

Non-members can subscribe to receive a complimentary bite-sized edition of the quarterly magazine *Cruising*, which is packed with plenty of advice, expert tips and more at [www.theca.org.uk/public/cruising](http://www.theca.org.uk/public/cruising).



## HISTORIC ORCA LOCATION DATA

The CA has analysed orca interaction reports since 2020 to produce a table showing locations by year and month along the Atlantic coasts of France, Portugal, Spain and through the Strait of Gibraltar. Skippers can review this table when planning to sail through the specific areas of coastline affected by orca interactions and attacks at [www.theca.org.uk/news/rats/orca-historic-data](http://www.theca.org.uk/news/rats/orca-historic-data).

The CA recommends using their orca information portal for additional resources in multiple languages along with guidance on avoiding known danger zones at [www.theca.org.uk/orcas](http://www.theca.org.uk/orcas).

ORCA PROJECT

Be Safe  
Be Prepared

thea.org.uk/orcas

*Disclaimer: Any advice has been prepared voluntarily by the Cruising Association, its members and others and they and it have tried to ensure that the contents are accurate. However, the Cruising Association, its employees, contributors and relevant members shall not be liable for any loss, damage or inconvenience of any kind howsoever arising in connection with the use of and/or reliance on such advice, save to the extent required by applicable law.*

## CHANGES TO SUBMISSION OF PLEASURE CRAFT REPORT (SPCR)

All crew IDs must now be reported via SPCR before entering the UK. In April, the UK Home Office changed the process for the submission of Pleasure Craft report (SPCR), with 'permission to travel' checks by the skipper now required for all crew. The changes applied from 18 April 2024.

The skipper of a pleasure craft arriving in the UK from outside territorial waters is responsible for examining the passport or other identity document of all members of crew and passengers on their vessel before departure from a port outside UK waters. They must then certify (as part of the SPCR) that these documents are those of the relevant person on the vessel (by photo match) and that they are valid (in date etc) and meet the UK entry requirements.

All British and Irish passport holders are automatically acceptable, as are all those having right of entry as granted by a visa to visit and stay in the country.

To use the SPCR system the skipper needs to create an account with Border

Force and for each voyage must submit electronically a description of that trip with details of crew using the online system at [www.spcr.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.spcr.homeoffice.gov.uk). This will be acknowledged with a unique voyage ID and will give the Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) if all onboard are acceptable to enter the UK. If, for whatever reason, one or more aboard are not permitted to enter the UK, the skipper will be asked to complete additional checks, or may need to call Border Force or Customs (HMRC).

There are no other changes mentioned to the regulations as set out in [www.gov.uk/guidance/sailing-a-pleasure-craft-that-is-arriving-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/sailing-a-pleasure-craft-that-is-arriving-in-the-uk). Boats must still fly the Q flag from the limit of territorial waters (12 miles offshore). This can be lowered when reporting formalities are completed, which the CA understands to mean on receipt of the UPT.

Later on this year additional changes to the system will be introduced, including an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

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