How should we behave on the Wadden Sea so that we can continue sailing with pleasure and respect for nature for a long time?

Hvordan skal vi opføre os på Vadehavet, så vi kan fortsætte med at sejle med glæde og respekt for naturen i lang tid?

Wie sollten wir uns im Wattenmeer verhalten, damit wir dort noch lange Zeit mit Freude und Respekt vor der Natur fahren können?

Hoe moeten we ons op de Waddenzee gedragen, zodat we nog lang met plezier en respect voor de natuur kunnen blijven varen?

Sustainable Sailing on the Wadden Sea
Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association

Vadehavets Bådklubber, DK
www.vadehavetsbaadklubber.dk

Soltwaters e.V., D
www.soltwaters.de

Soltwaters.de
das Watt ist es wert

Wadvaarders, NL
www.wadvaarders.nl

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Sustainable Sailing on the Wadden Sea

Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association

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Code of Conduct

Applicable to recreational sailors in the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea

Maintaining the balance between marine nature protection and responsible sailing is essential. This Code of Conduct sets clear guidelines to help sailors navigate the Wadden Sea with care, safeguard wildlife and habitats, and ensure that good seamanship goes hand in hand with respect for nature.

Common sense

- Keep your dog on a lead.
- Do not work on the boat with paint, oil, diesel or solvents.
- No loud music, loud radio or VHF radio.
- Do not try to power your way free using excessive engine force.
- Avoid creating large waves.
- Do not use unnecessarily bright lights.
- Do not throw rubbish overboard.
- No kite flying.

Birds

- If your boat dries out, give birds time to feed first. Only go ashore once they have moved away.
- When the tide comes in, return to your boat in good time without disturbing the birds.
- Stay close together as a group — do not spread out. If birds start taking off, you are too close.
- Keep extra distance from larger birds such as curlews and spoonbills.
- Keep well clear of nesting birds and birds with young.
- Do not sail close to high-tide refuges.
- Do not anchor there.
- Around high tide, do not approach flocks of birds.



©Wim van Hezel

Seals

- Keep well away from resting seals.
- Never approach them.
- If even one seal raises its head, you are too close.
- Do not sail close to steep banks where seals are resting.
- Do not anchor or let your boat dry out nearby.

Finally

- Good seamanship comes first.
- Always sail with an up-to-date chart.
- Avoid areas that are closed under nature protection regulations.
- The skipper is always responsible for the behaviour of everyone on board.
- When walking on the tidal flats, obey local mud flat walking regulations. Do not cross channels that are deeper than knee height – this is dangerous.
- Groups over seven people must stay within 500 metres of their boat.
- Don't let your boat dry out in one spot for more than 2–3 tidal cycles.

Always, be aware of special local rules.
Adopted by the Board of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association (TWSSA), February 2026.