



Topic 6

# Boat Cleaning & Maintenance

World Sailing Sustainability  
Education Programme

Supported by





# Welcome to the World Sailing Sustainability Education Programme!

World Sailing started in 1907 in Paris and is the world governing body for the sport of sailing. The organisation promotes sailing internationally, manages the sailing at the Olympics and Paralympics, develops the racing rules of sailing, and supports sailors from all over the world.

World Sailing is formed of national authorities in 145 countries as well as 115 classes of boat. World Sailing wants its sailors to share their love of sailing, while working together to protect the waters of the world. Sailing is part of a global movement to create change and positive impact, and you can be a part of this through your actions, on and off the water.

To help sailors do this, there is a plan, called World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030. This plan describes changes within sailing that will help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and maximise the positive effect that sailors can have on the environment.

## What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were published in 2015 to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and combat climate change by 2030. There are 17 goals that 193 countries have committed to. In **Topic 6: Cleaning & Maintenance** you will work with the following goals:



You can access World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030 at the following link: [bit.ly/2sjGrKZ](https://bit.ly/2sjGrKZ)

## World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030 is aligned with the 5 focus areas of the IOC's Sustainability Strategy



Infrastructure  
and natural  
sites



Sourcing  
and resource  
management



Workforce



Mobility



Climate

## Topics

In Topic 6, you will be introduced to:

- **The importance of keeping boats clean and maintained**
- **Invasive species**
- **Environmentally-friendly ways of keeping boats clean and maintained**
- **How to lengthen the life of boat sails and reuse them at the end of their life**

Topic 1	Race with World Sailing!
Topic 2	Resources & Climate Change
Topic 3	Navigating Wildlife & Biodiversity
Topic 4	Reducing Waste
Topic 5	Oil & Fuel
Topic 6	Boat Cleaning & Maintenance

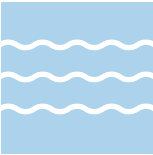


# Glossary



## Steward

Someone who supervises or takes care of something.



## Surface runoff

Water from rain or other sources that flows over the land. It can collect contaminants like oil, chemicals, and fertilizers before entering drains, rivers, lakes and the ocean.



## Bilge

The lowest point inside the boat where water can collect.



## Antifouling

The treatment of a boat's hull with a paint or similar substance designed to prevent organisms growing on it.



## Aquatic

Associated with water.



**Let's get under way!**



# Keep it clean!

Keeping your boat clean and maintained not only helps it to look good, run well and go faster, with nothing (like algae) slowing you down, it is also part of being a top sustainable sailor. As environmental stewards, we want to take care that we are not polluting the water with chemicals and waste, adding to the spread of invasive species, or spilling oil and fuel.



## Aim for non-toxic!

You might notice that a lot of the products used to clean boats and equipment contain many different types of chemicals. If we clean our boats at the club, these chemicals can end up in the surface runoff and get into our rivers, lakes or the ocean. We can all be top sustainable sailors and use eco-friendly options for cleaning. If you are sailing on a larger family boat, it is important to maintain the bilge because contaminants from the engine can end up down there.



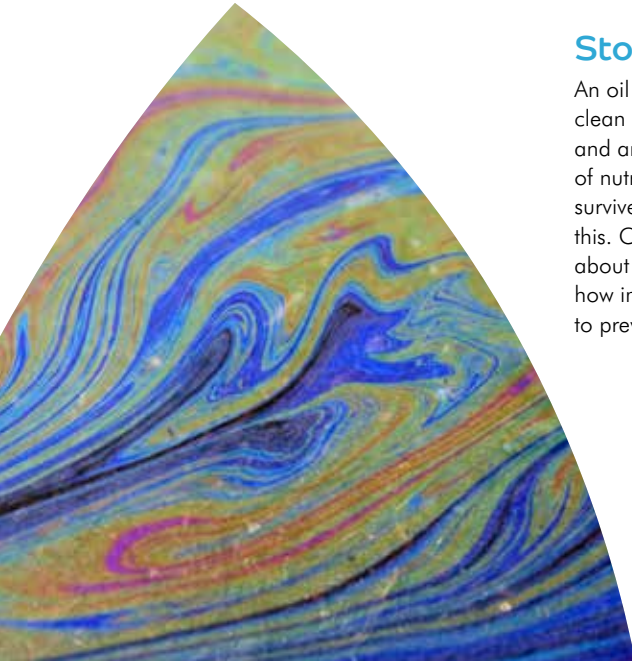
## Watch out for invasive species!

In Topic 3, we looked at invasive species and their effect on biodiversity and the aquatic ecosystem. Invasive species are introduced to a new place and have a negative impact on that environment. To keep nature healthy, we need a variety of plants and animals (biodiversity). If invasive species enter a new environment they can damage or kill native plants and animals and cause the ecosystem to become unbalanced. A boat can provide a way for invasive species to travel to new places, and the boat can also be damaged. Species like mussels, barnacles and seaweeds can attach to your boat, equipment or even your wetsuit. They also attach to plastic waste and travel with the currents - another reason to be a top sustainable sailor and dispose of your waste responsibly!



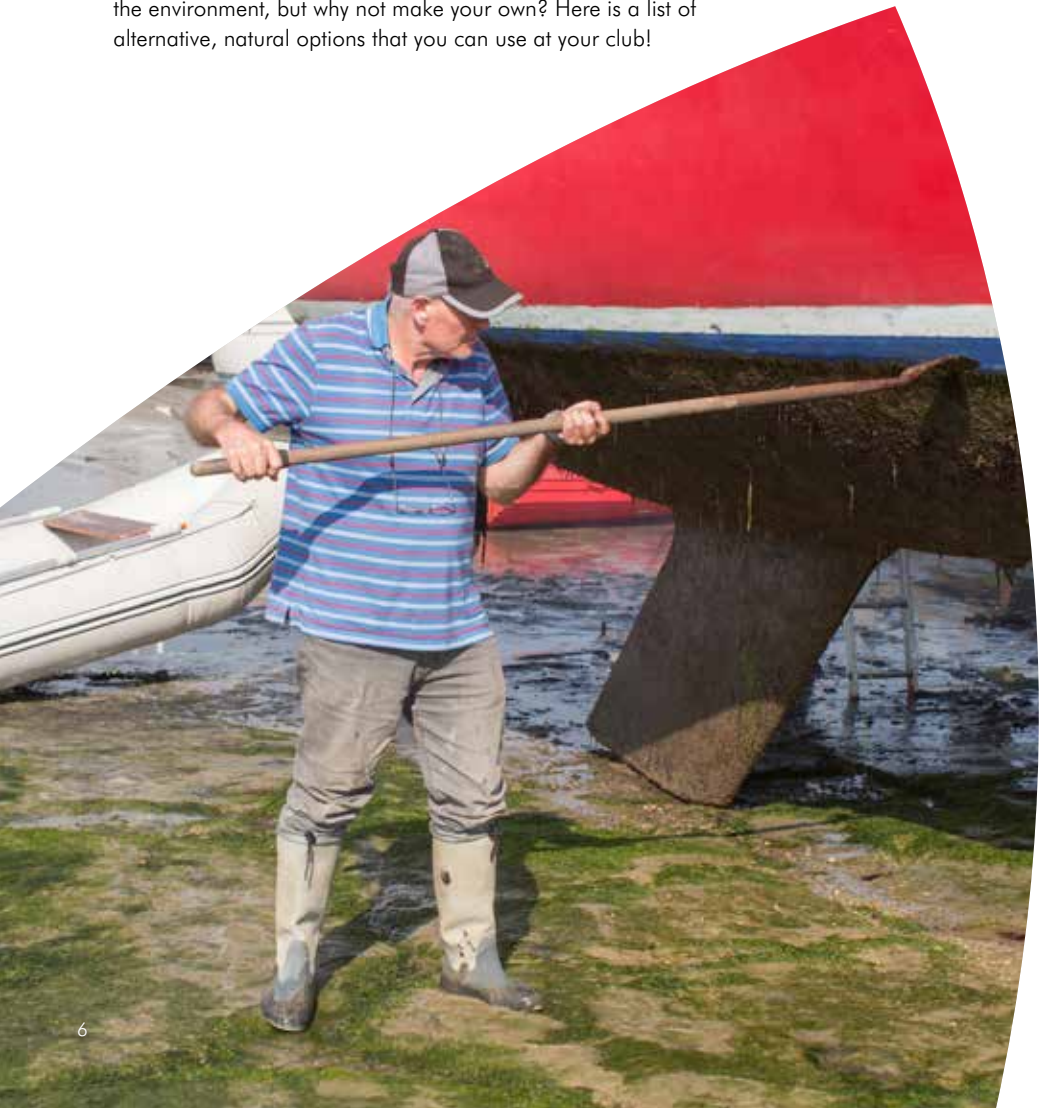
## Stop those spills!

An oil or fuel spill is not only difficult to clean up, but is dangerous for aquatic plants and animals. Aquatic life needs a balance of nutrients, oxygen and clean water to survive, so even a small spill can disrupt this. Check out Topic 5, to remind yourself about the harmful effects of a spill and how important it is to maintain our boats to prevent pollutants entering our waters.



# Keeping it clean

Many cleaning products are harmful to aquatic life and the water. It doesn't matter where you clean your boat - on the water or land - you need to choose products that are eco-friendly. You can buy cleaning products that are more gentle on the environment, but why not make your own? Here is a list of alternative, natural options that you can use at your club!





# Cleaning alternatives

Traditional cleaning product	Non-toxic alternative
General cleaner	Bicarbonate of soda mixed with lemon juice or white vinegar to make a paste
Window cleaner	1 capful white vinegar to 950ml water
Floor cleaner	1 cup white vinegar to 7.5 litres water
Shower cleaner	Bicarbonate of soda mixed with water to make a paste
Brass cleaner	Half a cup of white vinegar, 1 teaspoon of salt and enough flour to make a paste
Aluminium cleaner	2 tablespoons lemon juice or white vinegar to 950ml water
Stain remover	Bicarbonate of soda mixed with lemon juice or white vinegar to make a paste
Mildew remover	Mix equal parts lemon juice and salt or white vinegar and salt to make a paste
Wood polish	Olive or almond oil
Drain unblocker	Flush with boiling water

# Let's get cleaning!



Remove all the vegetation you can see from your boat, propeller, anchor, trailer and any other equipment that was in the water.

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If your boat moves between different locations, wash it down well before you leave to make sure nothing hitches a ride.

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If your boat has an engine, drain and flush it with hot water.

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Make your own non-toxic cleaning products - it is better for the environment and will save money!



If your boat spends months in the water, you will need to paint your hull with an antifouling paint.



If your boat has an engine, check it regularly to make sure it is running well and not leaking fuel.



# Looking after our sails

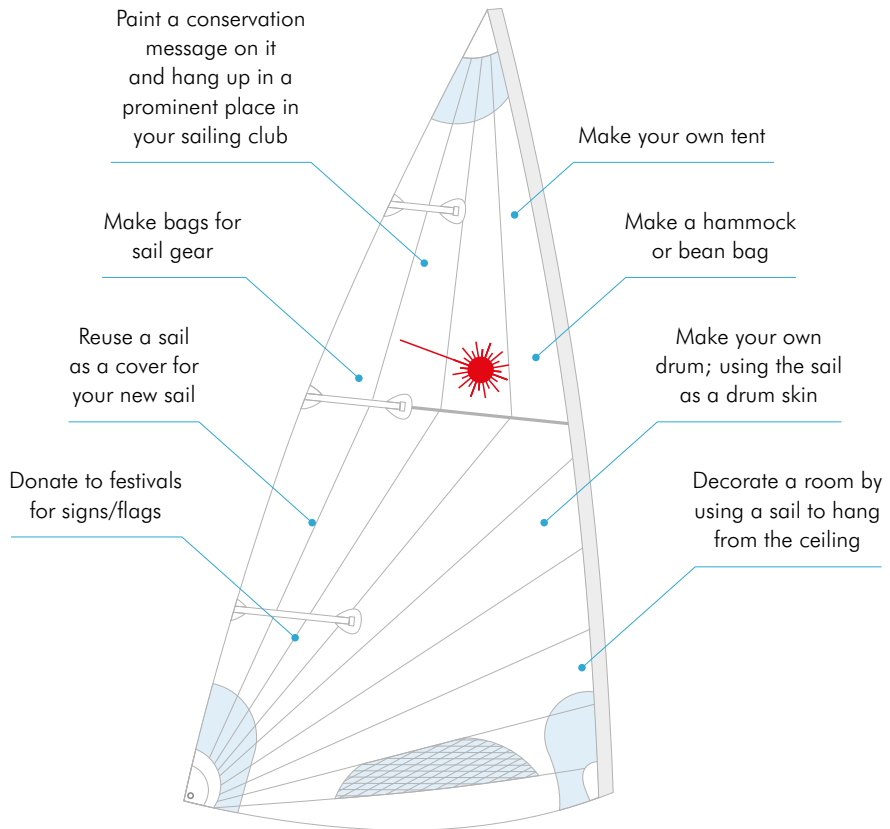
## Give your sail a long life!

- Fill the sails rather than flog them.
- Find out the recommended wind range for the sails on your boat and try to stick to them.
- Try and prevent a lot of contact between the sails and standing rigging to avoid splitting.
- Inspect your boat regularly for exposed pins and other sharp edges that could chafe or tear your sail.
- Limit long periods of sun exposure. UV rays are not good for your sail! If you store it on the boom, make sure it is covered when not in use.
- Rinse your sail in fresh water and let it dry before storing to prevent mould growing.
- If there are any stains on your sail (like mildew, mould or oil), remove them with an eco-friendly cleaner.
- Don't always fold the sails the same way as small creases will become permanent.
- Repair minor tears as soon as you see them.



## Give your sail a new life!

After your sail has had a long life, it might need to be replaced. Don't throw it out though! Remember the circular economy in Topic 4? There are so many things that a sail can be reused for!



# Bibliography

World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030

[bit.ly/2sjGrKZ](https://bit.ly/2sjGrKZ)

World Sailing 'Code of Environmental Friendly Behaviour'

[www.sailing.org/32350.php](https://www.sailing.org/32350.php)

World Sailing 'Guidance for Training Centres  
on Good Environmental Practice'

[www.sailing.org/about/environment.php#.XYoDzyhKg2w](https://www.sailing.org/about/environment.php#.XYoDzyhKg2w)

## Photos

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