

# Recreational boating and mooring

## in the waters of the Cap de Creus Natural Park



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### RULES AND ADVICE FOR BOAT USERS

Welcome to the waters of the Cap de Creus Natural Park, a unique area of the Mediterranean Sea due to its ecological, geological and geographical characteristics. This document is to inform you of the most important regulations which must be respected, and includes a list of recommendations which will facilitate an enjoyable, safer, healthier and more respectable stay in this natural area.

## Please read them and help us to take care of the Cap de Creus marine protected area

### a) RULES

**1 Do not take your boat into the swimming areas.** These areas are marked with yellow buoys (see the picture). Remember that the law prohibits sailing in these swimming areas<sup>(1,2)</sup>.



**2 Keep to a moderate speed when near the coast.** For your own safety and that of other water users, please remember that speeds in excess of 3 knots are not allowed at distances of less than 200 metres from any unmarked beach or creek, or 50 metres from other coastal areas<sup>(1,2)</sup>.



- 3 Keep away from divers.** You must keep a distance of over 100 metres from vessels carrying divers - indicated by the “A” flag (Alpha) of the International Code of Signals<sup>(2)</sup>.



- 4 Do not anchor on Posidonia beds. Anchor on sand or rock.** Posidonia is found in many areas of the creeks on the Cap de Creus Natural Park, and is an ecologically important marine seagrass. The law prohibits its destruction in any form<sup>(3)</sup>.



- 5 Do not throw rubbish into the sea.** For your own health and the protection of the environment the disposal of waste products into the sea is prohibited. This includes grey water, left over food and bilge water<sup>(1, 2)</sup>.



- 6 If using jet-skis, keep away from the coast and do not enter creeks in the natural park area.** The use of jet-skis is prohibited in areas less than 200 metres from the beach, or 50 metres from other coastal areas. During the months of June, July, August and September the launching and removal of these types of vessels is prohibited on beaches and creeks<sup>(2)</sup>.



- 7 Keep outside the area indicated as the “Reserva Natural Integral de l’illa Encalladora”.** This area of the natural park is of exceptional importance and current regulations prohibit access<sup>(4)</sup>.



- 8 Remember that if you wish to fish you must first obtain a recreational fishing licence, the Llicència de Pesca Marítima Recreativa,** which is issued by the Generalitat de Catalunya and may be obtained through the website [www.cat365.net](http://www.cat365.net). This licence is also issued by other autonomous communities within Spain or member states of the European Union<sup>(5)</sup>.



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- (1) Royal Decree 1471/1989, of 1<sup>st</sup> December, which approves the General Regulations for the Development and Execution of Law 22/1988, of 28<sup>th</sup> July, about Coasts.
- (2) Decision of the Harbour master’s office from Palamós-Girona, 22<sup>nd</sup> march 2005, which approves the instructions for Navigation in the maritime waters of the province of Girona.
- (3) Order of 31<sup>st</sup> July 1991 for the regulation of the seagrass beds and marine phanerogams.
- (4) Law 4/1998, of 12<sup>th</sup> March, concerning Cap de Creus protection.
- (5) Decree 109/1995, of 24<sup>th</sup> March about recreational sea fishing regulation.

## b) RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 When anchoring, avoid the anchor ploughing up the seabed, and do not continually change your anchorage.** Anchor with care, and the less the better, as this avoids damaging the seabed.
- 2 Try to use non-motorised vessels (kayaks, sailboats etc.).** Sport is good for your health and it helps preserve the environment.
- 3 If you use a motorised vessel, traditional, smaller boats are best (e.g. “mallorquines” and “llaguts”).** Enjoy the sea in the Cap de Creus area without stress or speed in traditional boats.
- 4 Respect the environment while on the sea.** Keep to a moderate speed, do not accelerate suddenly, keep the engine in good condition, and stop the engine as soon as possible once you have arrived at your destination. Save your money and the environment at the same time.
- 5 Avoid the use of antifouling paints on your vessel.** These usually contain heavy metals which are very harmful for the human health and the marine environment. If you have to use this type of paint buy the “ecological” varieties which do not contain heavy metals, you won't suffer, and neither will the sea.
- 6 Avoid mooring on coastal rocks or the beach between headlands.** Swimmers will be grateful.



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Thank you for your cooperation. The preservation of the environment is everyone's responsibility.  
Enjoy you stay in the waters of Cap de Creus

Drawing: TONI LLOBET



Parc  
Natural  
de Cap de Creus

fundació  
abertis



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Medi Ambient  
i Habitatge