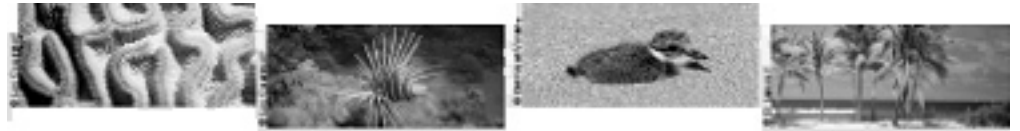


# the eco-sailor's *charter*



**The sea is my companion, challenge, the object of my dreams and one of my last spaces of freedom. However I know that each of my actions has an affect on its future, on what my children will find on it, on the animals that they will meet there and on the quality of its water. In order for it not to be destroyed and become a polluted and excessively controlled place, I am taking on my responsibilities as from now. I am aware of the consequences of my actions and commit myself with full knowledge of the facts.**

**Art 1-** I will not throw any non-biodegradable waste overboard, but rather I will take all the necessary steps before leaving to take only the minimum packaging and provide solutions for sorting and putting away waste and keeping it to make waste management easier on land.

**Art 2-** I use the harbour facilities available to dispose of my waste and thus reduce pollution. I am interested in the running of the port and if it is ill- or badly- equipped, I take the time to talk with those responsible to make them aware and encourage them to make an effort to ask for facilities where there are none.

**Art 3-** When choosing and buying antifouling and cleaning products for my boat, I act as a responsible consumer by selecting those which are the most environmentally friendly. I only careen in areas stocking these.

**Art 4-** For the washing up, cleaning and washing, I only use natural and biodegradable household products, detergents, soap and shampoo. I restrict my use of fresh water both at sea and on land.

**Art 5-** My boat is equipped with storage tanks for sewage and other tank water waste and while I am on a cat way, I use the harbour facilities.

**Art 6-** At sea, I observe and report everything that can help to quickly identify a source of pollution (oil slick, hydrocarbons, dead birds, floating containers, boats emptying their fuel tanks etc.) and encourage action to limit the impact. I fill my tanks using a material adapted to avoid spillages.

**Art 7-** I use moorings set up by local authorities rather than mooring wherever I please which is always harmful to herbarium, coral reefs and fauna that are hidden there. If without any choice, I prefer to anchor on sandy areas.

**Art 8-** I obey the speed limit around islets and access to fairways (2 to 3 knots) so as not to disturb the animals by the noise nor destroy the banks by the waves.

**Art 9-** If I am planning to disembark at an uninhabited island, I check that it is not protected or forbidden to go there during nesting season. I keep my dog on a lead and keep my distance if the birds become alarmed.

**Art 10-** I only fish and hunt for my own consumption and I replace overturned stones and sand to avoid disrupting the lives of micro fauna after my departure.

**Art 11-** I respect the areas occupied by sea mammals. If I want to watch them, I approach them slowly while still maintaining enough distance so as not to disturb them. I limit my time for watching them and do not stay if they show any signs of stress.

**Art 12-** I have become acquainted with the rules and regulations regarding sea pollution and the protection of animals and am committed to obeying them.

**Art 13-** By adhering to this charter, I am becoming an «ambassador of the sea » for other users, local authorities and governments.



Association Echo-Mer  
Case 65 - Quai Louis Prunier  
17000 La Rochelle - France  
Phone : +33 (0) 546 41 04 81  
[www.echo-mer.com](http://www.echo-mer.com) / [echomer@wanadoo.fr](mailto:echomer@wanadoo.fr)