

Offshore Double Handed World Championships 2024

Marine Megafauna



Sailing is inherently linked to our environment and we need to ensure that we are not negatively impacting the marine environment. Collisions experienced by sailing boats include both floating/submerged objects and marine megafauna, and can have fatal consequences for marine life and pose a serious danger to sailors.

The [Marine Mammal Advisory Group](#) (MMAG) outlines the key steps to mitigate strikes and collisions for the sailing & boating sector.

Sailors are the 'eyes and ears' for the scientific community and reporting what we see provides 'live' safety information during racing and allows long-term understanding of species distribution.

Marine megafauna refers to large marine animals inhabiting the ocean, typically characterized by substantial size. The term "megafauna" generally applies to animals weighing more than 45 kilograms (approximately 100 pounds).

Examples of Marine Megafauna include:

- Mammals: Whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, and manatees.
- Fish: Large species such as sharks, basking sharks and sunfish.
- Reptiles: Sea turtles

What to do when you are sailing?

As a sailor request to see the marine mammal collision mitigation plan of any event you enter, which should identify areas of special interest, eventual exclusion zones or other mitigating actions, provide a hazard reporting system for the fleet, and ensure post event reporting.

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This year's event is held within the beautiful region of West Brittany, while this area is well known to the offshore racing community, it is also an area of rich biodiversity. (See Annexe).

Required actions for teams:

- Assign a dedicated observer in each team to collate and report observations and any collision details.
- Report immediately any sightings, potential hazards or collisions on interfleet WhatsApp group.
 - Location coordinates and time, and relevant details
- Inform the race committee of any collision details post-race to facilitate post event reporting.

- Provide your telephone details to be added to the WhatsApp group here, (Link to fleet telephone list)

Annexe:

[Important marine mammal areas \(IMMA's\).](#)

- [West English channel IMMA](#)
- [Northern Continental Shelf of the Bay of Biscay IMMA](#)

IMMA E-ATLAS

