



FRENCH CUSTOMS - YOUR PARTNER FOR SAFETY AT SEA



FRENCH CUSTOMS' PRESENCE AT SEA MEANS SAFETY FOR FRANCE AND FOR EUROPE.

IT ALSO MEANS SAFER WATER SPORTS.

SAFETY FOR FRANCE AND FOR EUROPE

As part of its inter-ministerial remit, French Customs watches over more than 5,000 km of the country's coastlines, both in metropolitan France and overseas.

Its coast guard department employs 800 marine and aviation specialists deployed on 40 ships and 15 aircraft – 2 of which are fitted with marine pollution-detecting equipment – and 9 helicopters

Customs and tax controls at the EU's maritime borders

French Customs combats maritime smuggling in all its forms, because:

- Drugs, weapons, ammunition and explosives are a **threat to health and public safety**
- Smuggled tobacco, alcohol and counterfeits are **detrimental to the economic interests of both France and EU**

French Customs intercepts and seizes fraudulent goods and the vessels carrying them, including as part of internationally-coordinated operations.

French Customs' coast guard department takes part in cross-ministerial missions coordinated by France's maritime Prefects

The coast guard's key missions, which are set by the Government, include:

- **Rescuing** individuals and providing assistance to ships in danger
- **Combatting** smuggling and human trafficking
- **Fighting** discharges of pollutants and ocean pollution
- **Stopping** illegal fishing
- **Keeping an eye on** marine protected areas

Its other mandates include:

- **Maritime safety** and accident prevention
- **Security at sea** – combatting terrorism, piracy and banditry
- **Protection of France's marine natural and cultural heritage** (environmental quality, ship wrecks, amphoras, etc.)

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

When on patrol at sea, French Customs' coast guard department:

- Ensures that users of boats and watercraft comply with safety rules and regulations (rules for navigation, speed, safety equipment)
- Seeks out, assists and rescues individuals in trouble at sea

French Customs is there to help, but don't take unnecessary risks!

Pleasure boaters and users of personal watercraft

- Check the weather and keep informed about local risks
- Before you set out, make sure that your boat (check the hull, rigging, engine, lights, fittings, anchor, etc.) and the safety equipment (rafts, life jackets, flares, etc.) are in good shape; check stocks (oils, fuel, water, etc.)

FRENCH CUSTOMS' SEA AND AIR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM



- Use a VHF radio rather than a cell phone to be more easily located
- Tell someone where you are going before every trip
- Pay strict attention to buoy markers along the beaches
- Stay within the speed limits and observe the rules for navigation
- Watch out for other users, such as swimmers and divers
- Don't exceed the capacities of your boat or its crew
- Don't throw trash overboard – drop it into a container back at port

Windsurfers, divers and other water sports enthusiasts

Remember: you might get into trouble out at sea or after sunset – help others find you by wearing bright colours and carrying a signalling device.

If you get into trouble, don't panic and don't leave your boat or equipment.

If you witness an accident at sea, you must immediately inform the closest Regional Operational Rescue and Surveillance Centre (CROSS):

- CROSS North Sea (Gris Nez): +33 3 21 87 21 87
- CROSS Channel (Jobourg): +33 2 33 52 72 13
- CROSS North Brittany (Corsen): +33 2 98 89 31 31
- CROSS South Brittany (Etel): +33 2 97 55 35 35
- CROSS Mediterranean (La Garde): +33 4 94 61 16 16
- MRSC Aspretto (Corsica): +33 4 95 20 13 63
- CROSS French Antilles-French Guiana (Fort-de-France): +33 5 96 70 92 92



THE COAST GUARD TEAMS OF FRENCH CUSTOMS: KEEPING FRANCE'S COASTLINES SAFE

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