Sustainability Update

This paper provides an overview of World Sailing's Sustainability initiatives in 2026 and specific relevant updates for the International Regulations commission.

1. Life Cycle Assessment Project

In collaboration with Marine Futures and class manufacturers, World sailing have been working on a LifeCycle Assessment of all of the Olympic Classes over the past year to determine their environmental footprint and highlight areas for improvement with the aim of ultimately implementing regulations based on the findings. Marine Futures recently completed production of the manufacturing reports for each class. As part of this work, World Sailing have been surveying and interviewing Athletes, Coaches and Team Leaders to understand how frequently equipment is replaced over a four-year campaign cycle. Unfortunately, engagement with the project was limited, resulting in insufficient data, necessitating a new round of data collection next year. For more information on the project or if you are interested in participating, please email sustainability@sailing.org

2. Marine MegaFauna Guidance Published

In January 2026, World Sailing and the Marine Mammal Advisory Group jointly published the Marine MegaFauna in Sailing Guidelines which support sailors, events, and federations to reduce the risk of vessel strikes to marine megafauna worldwide. The guidelines encourage the creation of a Nature Action Plan – the recommended protocol that events should undertake to mitigate marine biodiversity risk. MMAG provides a customisable **Nature Action Plan template** that guides events and teams through the planning needed to prepare for and evaluate the risk of marine mammal strike.

3. 2025 Impact Report Findings

World Sailing published the annual Impact Report in August 2026. Findings and key areas included:

- World Sailing achieved a 59% carbon footprint reduction compared to our 2019 baseline
- 17 out of 32 Environmental Targets in Agenda 2030 have been achieved since 2018
- 40 nations supported our bid for Paralympic reinstatement
- 8 out of 15 Social Targets in Agenda 2030 achieved since 2018

4. New Sustainability Structure at World Sailing

Following the departure of former Director of Sustainability, Alexandra Rickhham, World Sailing has restructured the Department of Sustainability. It is now part of the Department of Sport, led by Koray Ezer as Director of Sport. It was recently announced that Alejandro Bacot will be joining the department as Sustainability Manager, while Anne Cecile Turner will be joining as Head of Sustainability.

5. Sustainability initiatives in 2025

Key initiatives include:

- World Sailing Impact Report 2025
- Marine Megafauna Guidance published
- Strong progress on the LCA Project
- Final Stages of BENCHES project
- Sustainable Event Handbook coming soon