

**Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility**  
**OLBIA PORT AUTHORITY**

**EXTRACT FROM SAFETY AT SEA ORDER**  
**2022 – Translated from Italian**

[...]

**Article 6**

**(Water Skiing and Parasailing Discipline)**

The practice of water skiing is permitted (with the exception of the marine area of the Tavolara - Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area) in compliance with the rules contained in Ministerial Decree 26.01.1960 and subsequent amendments. These provisions also apply, as far as applicable, to parasailing and the towing of floats commonly known as "banana boats" and similar devices. For the practice of water skiing, parasailing, as well as for the towing activity of floats commonly known as "banana boats" and similar devices, the use of individual life jackets is prescribed. The activity of parasailing is subject to compliance with the following conditions:

- a) Take-off and landing phases must occur in waters free from bathers and other vessels, respecting the rules regarding the marine area reserved for swimming, and in any case beyond 500 meters from the shore;
- b) The operator of the towing unit and the parasailer are required, before the start of the flight and at every stage, to ensure the efficiency of the parachute, as well as the existence of visibility and safety conditions for the exercise of the activity in question;
- c) The lateral safety distance between the towing unit and other units potentially present in the area must exceed the linear dimensions represented by the towline-parachute element, and in any case not be less than 50 meters;
- d) The unit can tow only one parasailer at a time and cannot simultaneously engage in other activities, such as water skiing, fishing, etc.;
- e) During parasailing exercises, overflying any type of vessel and gatherings of people, as well as the dropping of objects of any kind, is prohibited.

**Article 7**

**(Launch Corridors)**

1. Municipalities for stretches of free beach and concessionaires, for the water areas in front of concession areas, upon regular authorization issued by the competent authorities, may establish launch corridors, to be left for public use, for the landing and departure of

motorized vessels, sailing vessels, sailboats with auxiliary motor, and windsurf boards. Those engaged in nautical activities and rental of pleasure craft other than beach boats are obliged to install launch corridors.

2. The aforementioned corridors must have the following characteristics:

- a) Width of 20 meters. This measurement, which shall not be less than 10 meters in any case, may be reduced if the seafront of the concession is equal to or less than 20 meters, or increased according to particular local needs or the type of concession;
- b) Depth not less than the limit of the swimming area;
- c) Delimitation consisting of yellow or orange buoys connected with tarred rope and spaced at intervals of not less than 20 meters in the first 100 meters and subsequently at 50-meter intervals;
- d) Identification of the sea entrance by placing white flags on the outer boundary buoys;
- e) Near the shoreline, close to the launch corridor in a way that is visible from both the sea and the beach, a bilingual signboard must be placed, bearing the wording as per Article 1 paragraph 4 "LAUNCH CORRIDOR RESERVED FOR THE PASSAGE OF VESSELS/BOATS – SWIMMING PROHIBITED".

3. If the launch corridors are exclusively for kite surfers or are also used by them, they must conform to the characteristics specified in the subsequent Article 8. In the case of shared use of the launch corridor, it cannot be occupied by more than one unit at a time.

4. Specific behavior rules for swimming safety purposes:

- a) Sailing vessels, including windsurf boards (windsurfing), must traverse the corridors at the slowest possible speed and with utmost caution to avoid potential danger situations;
- b) Motorized vessels, including personal watercraft, must cross the corridors at slow speed, and in any case, at a speed not exceeding three knots, ensuring minimal emissions of exhaust gases and acoustic disturbances to bathers;
- c) Mooring or anchoring inside and outside the launch corridors is always prohibited. Stopping inside the mentioned corridors is allowed only for the time strictly necessary to safely embark or disembark persons heading to (or coming from) land.

### Article 8

**(Rules on the Use of Windsurf, Kite-Surf, Jet Ski, Water Scooter, Water E-Bike, Jet Surf, Jet Sky, Sea Scooter, Seabob, and Similar Vessels, as well as on "Snorkeling Towed" Activity and the Use of "Freewheeling")**

1. Navigation and Use of Windsurf Boards

1.1 Windsurfing is permitted, during daylight hours, at a distance not exceeding 1 (one) nautical mile from the coast. Navigation is prohibited:

- a) In all swimming areas where properly delimited launch corridors do not exist. In such cases, sailing with the sail furled is mandatory in the swimming area.
- b) Inside ports and along their access routes, all year round.

1.2 Those intending to engage in this activity must wear an approved type of life belt.

## 2. Navigation and Use of Kite-Surf

2.1 Kite-surfing can only be practiced during daylight hours.

2.2 The practice of kite-surfing is subject to the following conditions:

- a) Use is allowed for those aged 14 (fourteen) years and older;
- b) It is mandatory to permanently wear an individual flotation device and a protective helmet during use;
- c) The vessel must be equipped with a safety device that allows for the opening of the wing and subsequent deflation, while still keeping it attached to the person;
- d) It is mandatory to use safety systems that allow the operator to unhook and, in extreme cases, abandon the sail (so-called wing), or to equip oneself with a suitable tool to cut the lines (so-called lines) in case of emergency;
- e) Lifting the wing from the ground is prohibited if there are people or obstacles within a 100-meter downwind radius;
- f) Leaving the kite-surf unattended without disconnecting at least one side of the wing is prohibited.

2.3 The aforementioned boards are prohibited from:

- Being launched in swimming areas;
- In port waters and those immediately adjacent to the entrance, as well as in anchorage areas reserved for ships in the Gulf of Olbia;
- Near maritime signals and fishing facilities;
- Within 100 meters of ships, boats, or vessels at anchor or in navigation, or of bathers and divers underwater. Additionally, it is prohibited to:
- Launch or land the aforementioned boards, supported by kite wind, from free beaches not equipped with a specific launch corridor;
- Fly over beaches and, in general, coasts frequented by tourists and bathers. 2.4 Board departure and return must occur exclusively using dedicated kite-surf launch corridors. These corridors may be installed – upon request for authorization to the competent territorial authority - by concessionaires, renters, associations, etc. 2.5 These corridors must have the following characteristics:
- Minimum length: 200 meters;
- Width: minimum 30 meters along the shoreline – minimum 60 meters offshore opening;
- They must be laterally delimited by two lines of orange buoys placed at a maximum distance of 20 meters from each other;

- The mooring bodies of the buoys forming the aforementioned lines must be connected to each other on the seabed by a non-floating rope;
- To facilitate the identification of return corridors on the beach, the last outer buoy (right and left) at the 200-meter limit must be orange in color and have a diameter of 80 cm, indicating the owner's name and authorization number;
- Each buoy must bear the wording "KITE SURF EXIT CORRIDOR - BATHING PROHIBITED" – This prohibition must also be indicated on a special signboard located on the shoreline at the entrance to the corridor. Furthermore:
- Departure and return, through the dedicated kite-surf launch corridors, must be done using the "body drag" technique (i.e., being dragged by the kite with the body immersed in water, up to a distance of not less than 100 meters from the shoreline);
- Only one kite-surf is allowed to pass through the corridor at a time, with precedence given to the returning vessel;
- The authorization holder is responsible for the arrangement and perfect maintenance of the corridor signage.

2.6 The provisions of this point 2 apply all year round except for Article 2.3 paragraph 1, and Articles 2.4 and 2.5.

### 3. Navigation and Use of Water Scooters or Personal Watercraft and Similar Vessels

3.1 Without prejudice to what is provided regarding navigation limits from the coast by Article 27 paragraph 3 letter c of Legislative Decree 171/2005 and subsequent amendments, as well as the prohibitions within the Tavolara - Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area, the use of pleasure craft called personal watercraft, water scooters, jet skis, and similar vessels is subject to the following conditions:

- During the summer bathing season, launching, hauling, departure, and landing are permitted from ports, moorings, and structures for assistance to pleasure boating, as well as from designated launch corridors, at a maximum speed of 3 (three) knots;
- During the rest of the year, launching, hauling, departure, and landing are permitted from any point along the coast. 3.2 For the operation of water scooters or personal watercraft and similar vessels, adulthood and a boating license are required, as provided by Legislative Decree July 18, 2005, no. 171 (code of pleasure boating) and Ministerial Decree July 29, 2008, no. 146 (implementation regulation of the boating code). 3.3 It is recognized that the person in charge of the vessel (skipper), possessing the corresponding qualification, may not coincide with the driver of the vessel. This possibility is allowed only if:

- a) The skipper is on board the vessel and holds a boating license obtained at least one year prior;
- b) The vessel is equipped with automatic safety devices operable by the skipper that override manual commands operated by the driver, causing their total deactivation;
- c) The prevalence of the aforementioned automatic safety devices can be verified by certification issued by the manufacturer of the vessel;
- d) The skipper has direct control over the conduct of the vessel in case of necessity.

3.4 During navigation, permitted only during daylight hours with favorable marine weather conditions, beyond 200 meters from the coast and at a distance not exceeding 1 (one) nautical mile from the coast, all persons on board (operator and passenger) must wear an approved type of life jacket, regardless of the distance from the coast.

3.5 Water scooters or personal watercraft and similar vessels must be equipped with mandatory safety devices/equipment, including an automatic return throttle and a device on the ignition circuit ensuring engine shutdown in case of the operator's fall, installed in a highly visible manner as well as its attachment to the rider.

#### **4. Navigation and Use of Aquatic E-Bike:**

The use of the aquatic e-bike equipped with Hydrofoil "Manta 5 XE1" is subject to the following provisions:

- a) Minimum age of 16 years for operation;
- b) Navigation only during daylight hours, with sea conditions up to value 2 on the Douglas scale (maximum wave height of 0.5 meters);
- c) Navigation allowed up to a maximum distance of 1000 meters from the coast;
- d) Prohibition of navigation within the bathing area, with the obligation to use the launch corridor to reach the shore;
- e) Obligation of liability insurance; f) Obligation for the operator to wear an approved type of life jacket compatible with the characteristics of the vehicle.

#### **5. Navigation and Use of Jet-Surf:**

The practice of jet-surfing is subject to the following provisions:

- a) Use is allowed for those aged 14 (fourteen) years and older, and under the supervision of an adult experienced in swimming;
- b) Jet-surfing can only be performed during daylight hours and in assured favorable marine weather conditions;
- c) For landing and take-off, if using self-propulsion at a speed not exceeding three knots, a launch corridor must be present, otherwise, with the engine off, proceed by arms using the "body drag" technique (i.e., being dragged by the board with the body immersed in water, up to a distance not less than 200 meters from the shoreline);
- d) Navigation must occur using self-propulsion at a speed not exceeding three knots only beyond 200 meters from the coast and, in any case, within 1 mile from the coast, with an individual flotation device and a protective helmet. Possession of a boating license is not mandatory for operating a jet-surf.

#### **6. Units Propelled with Device called "Freewheeling"**

6.1 "Freewheeling" refers to a propulsion device with a protected or unprotected propeller, operated manually by a crank, whose hub is positioned on a unit by means of a clamp or similar, designed for use at sea for surface excursions, capable of carrying one or more persons.

6.2 The use of units propelled with a device called "freewheeling" is prohibited in water areas designated for bathing.

## **7. Water Propellers with Variable Pitch for Underwater Excursions, Swimming, and Snorkeling, called "Sea Scooters"**

7.1 "Sea scooter" refers to a propulsion device with a protected propeller driven by an engine, usually electric, equipped with automatic shutdown devices in case of abandonment by the operator, designed for use at sea for surface excursions, underwater excursions, swimming, and snorkeling, capable of pulling a person.

7.2 The use of the sea scooter is subject to compliance with the following conditions:

- a) Operation is prohibited at night.
- b) During the summer bathing season, operation is prohibited in bathing areas (or closed to navigation) or areas frequented by bathers.
- c) The operator, if under the age of 14, must use the device under the supervision of an adult experienced in swimming;
- d) If the device is also used underwater, it must be specifically marked on the surface, similar to that required for underwater activities, with a buoy equipped with a red flag with a white diagonal stripe, attached to a rope of maximum length of 50 meters, visible from a distance not less than 300 meters.

## **8. Aquatic Propeller Known as "Seabob":**

8.1 A seabob is defined as a propulsion device with a protected propeller driven by a normally electric motor, equipped with automatic shutdown devices in case of abandonment by the operator, designed for use at sea for surface excursions, underwater excursions, swimming, and snorkeling, capable of pulling a person.

8.2 The use of the seabob is subject to compliance with the following conditions:

- a) Use is prohibited at night.
- b) During the summer bathing season, operation is prohibited in areas reserved for bathing (or closed to navigation) or areas frequented by bathers.
- c) If the operator is under the age of 14, they must use the device under the supervision of an adult experienced in swimming;
- d) If the device is also used underwater, it must be specifically marked on the surface, similar to that required for underwater activities, with a buoy equipped with a red flag with a white diagonal stripe, attached to a rope of maximum length of 50 meters, visible from a distance not less than 300 meters.
- e) In the case of departure from the shore, the bathing area must be crossed perpendicularly to the coast at a maximum speed of 2 knots until reaching the beach or the

limit of that area, maintaining a distance of at least 10 meters from any bathers present in the area;

f) The operator must take all possible precautions to avoid collisions with persons/units in the area and maintain a minimum distance of 100 meters from other units of the same type;

g) Navigation at a distance greater than 1 mile from the coast (or from a support unit) is prohibited;

h) Speed racing is prohibited; i) Navigation at a distance of less than 200 meters from merchant or floating vessels (300 meters if military units), even when at anchor, is prohibited;

j) Navigation at a distance of less than 100 meters from floating units or vessels signaling the presence of divers as well as from fishing signals, sea fishing installations or from any installation fixed or anchored to the seabed is prohibited.

## **9. Sport-Nautical Activity Known as "Trailing Snorkeling" or Similar.**

9.1 This activity involves snorkeling while being towed by a sled/wing with handles, to which the bather is connected allowing them to vary the towing depth. Towing is performed at low speeds by a motorized vessel.

9.2 The exercise of this activity is subject to compliance with the following provisions:

a) The operator of the towing vessel, who must hold a boating license, must be accompanied by another person experienced in swimming;

b) The vessel used (except for aquascooters) must have jet or shielded propeller propulsion to prevent contact between the propeller and the towed bather;

c) The bather must be specifically marked on the surface, similar to that required for underwater activities, with a buoy equipped with a red flag with a white diagonal stripe, attached to a rope of maximum length of 30 meters, visible from a distance not less than 300 meters; similarly, a red flag with a white diagonal stripe must be hoisted on the towing vessel;

d) Use of a polypropylene towing cable;

e) Towing speed must not cause harm to the towed person and must not create a wake;

f) In addition to the equipment required for the actual navigation, the towing vessel must be equipped with an adequate first aid kit, a lifebuoy with 30 meters of floating rope, and a device for gear reversal and engine neutral;

g) The towing vessel must also be equipped with a towing cable attachment system such as a snap hook and a large convex rearview mirror;

- h) The lateral safety distance between the towing vessel and other vessels must be greater than 100 meters; i) Towing of a single bather is allowed;
- j) Use of any type of underwater breathing apparatus by the bather is prohibited;
- k) The bather must be towed within 30 meters of the vessel but not less than 10 meters.

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