Interreg South Baltic | Co-funded by the European Union | ECO MARINAS

LECTURER PREPARATION GUIDE

# The Regulatory Landscape for Environmentally Friendly Marinas

*A Practical Guide for Baltic Marina Administrators*

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Format** | Lecture with interactive elements | **Duration** | 60–90 minutes (flexible) |
| **Audience** | Baltic marina administrators & managers | **Programme** | ECOMARINAS / Interreg South Baltic |

## Document Overview

This guide provides everything you need to deliver this lecture confidently and effectively. It covers the lecture's learning objectives, slide-by-slide talking points, facilitation tips, background knowledge, and suggested discussion questions. The ECOMARINAS regulatory lecture is practical in nature — participants are marina professionals, not legal scholars — so the emphasis is always on what regulations mean in day-to-day marina operations.

**The document is organised as follows:**

# Section 1: Learning Objectives & Audience Profile

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to:

- Explain how EU environmental directives translate into obligations at the marina level
- Identify the five key regulatory pillars affecting marina operations
- Describe what environmental inspectors look for during routine marina inspections
- Recognise common compliance failures and how to avoid them
- Connect ECOMARINAS certification indicators to specific regulatory requirements
- Identify practical, low-cost improvements that demonstrate environmental compliance

## Audience Profile

Your audience consists of marina administrators, harbour masters, and operations managers from the South Baltic region. Key characteristics to keep in mind:

| What they bring to the room | What they need from this lecture |
|---|---|
| Practical, hands-on marina experience | Clear, actionable regulatory knowledge |
| Limited legal or regulatory background | Plain-language explanations, not legal jargon |
| Pride in their marinas and local knowledge | Recognition that compliance can be a competitive asset |
| Concern about costs and workloads | Realistic, proportionate guidance |
| Experience with seasonal and weather challenges | Acknowledgement of Baltic-specific realities |

**Lecturer Tip**

*Open with the show-of-hands question on slide 3: 'Who has already experienced an environmental inspection?' This immediately signals that you respect their experience and grounds the lecture in real-world relevance.*

## Section 2: Lecture Structure & Timing Guide

The presentation contains 16 slides. The table below provides a recommended timing guide. Adjust based on group size and interactivity level.

| Slide | Topic | Time | Activity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1–2 | Introduction & framing | **5 min** | *Welcome, housekeeping* |
| 3 | Why regulations matter in the Baltic | **5 min** | *Show-of-hands poll* |
| 4 | How EU law reaches your marina | **7 min** | *Diagram walk-through* |
| 5 | Overview: Five Regulatory Pillars | **3 min** | *Transition frame* |
| 6 | Pillar 1: Water Protection | **10 min** | *Photo comparison* |
| 7 | Pillar 2: Waste Management | **8 min** | *Photo comparison* |
| 8 | Pillar 3: Nature Protection | **8 min** | *Discussion question* |
| 9 | Pillar 4: Energy & Electrification | **7 min** | *Photo comparison* |
| 10 | Pillar 5: Fuels, Chemicals & Safety | **7 min** | *Scenario question* |
| 11 | Inspections: What they really look for | **8 min** | *Key message slide* |
| 12 | Baltic compliance realities | **5 min** | *Group reflection* |
| 13 | Compliance as competitive advantage | **5 min** | *Positive close* |
| 14 | Interactive reflection (Kahoot or discussion) | **7 min** | *Participant activity* |
| 15–16 | Takeaways & closing | **5 min** | *Summary & Q&A* |

# Section 3: Slide-by-Slide Speaker Notes

## Slides 1–2: Introduction & Framing

**Core Message**

This lecture is not about memorising EU directive numbers. It is about understanding what those directives mean for your daily decisions at the marina dock.

**Suggested opening (adapt in your own words):**

*"Welcome. Before we begin, I want to be clear about what this lecture is not: it is not a legal seminar. You will not leave here needing to memorise directive numbers or transpose schedules. What you will leave with is a practical map of the regulatory world that inspectors operate in — and that you operate in — every single day."*

- Introduce yourself and your connection to Baltic marina operations or environmental regulation.
- Acknowledge the ECOMARINAS programme context — participants are here as part of an effort to raise standards across the South Baltic region.
- Emphasise that everything covered connects directly to ECOMARINAS indicators and real inspection practice.

## Slide 3: Why Regulations Matter in the Baltic

**Core Message**

The Baltic Sea is one of the world's most ecologically sensitive bodies of water. Small pollution sources accumulate. Marinas are not the biggest polluters, but they are highly visible and easy to inspect.

**Key talking points:**

- The Baltic is a shallow, semi-enclosed sea with very limited natural water exchange. Pollution introduced today can persist for decades.
- Marinas occupy a unique position: they are publicly visible, often near tourist areas, and they interface directly with the sea surface where most pollutants concentrate.
- Regulators and inspectors tend to focus on marinas precisely because they are accessible and because compliance failures are highly visible.

**Interactive Moment**

*Ask: 'Who in this room has already experienced an environmental inspection at their marina?' Allow 20–30 seconds for responses. This question validates experience and signals you respect their knowledge.*

## Slide 4: How EU Law Reaches Your Marina's Dock

**Core Message**

From an inspector's perspective, the marina manager is the final responsible person — regardless of what decisions were made at EU, national, or municipal level.

Walk through the regulatory cascade using the diagram:

- EU level: Sets environmental goals through directives (Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive, MARPOL conventions, etc.). These are targets and standards, not operational rules.
- National government: Each Baltic country translates EU directives into national law, issuing regulations, licensing requirements, and enforcement procedures. This is where the legal obligation is created.
- Municipal/harbour authorities: Local permits, planning conditions, and inspection protocols apply these national rules to specific sites.
- Your marina: The inspector checks permits, infrastructure, and behaviour. You are the implementation point.

**Important framing note:**

Many marina managers feel disconnected from EU law because it seems abstract. The diagram helps make the connection tangible: every EU directive eventually becomes an inspection checklist item.

## Slide 5: The Five Regulatory Pillars

**Core Message**

You do not need to memorise directive numbers. You need to remember what inspectors associate with each of the five pillars.

Use this slide as a signposting moment. Briefly name each pillar, then tell participants you will go through each in detail:

- Pillar 1: Water Protection
- Pillar 2: Waste Management
- Pillar 3: Nature Protection & Sensitive Areas
- Pillar 4: Energy, Climate & Electrification
- Pillar 5: Fuels, Chemicals & Safety

**Lecturer Tip**

*Consider writing these five pillars on a whiteboard or flipchart at the front of the room, and ticking each one off as you complete the section. This gives participants a visual sense of progress through the lecture.*

# Section 4: The Five Regulatory Pillars — Deep Dive

## Pillar 1: Water Protection

Relevant EU Frameworks: Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), MARPOL Annex IV, Helsinki Convention (HELCOM).

**What this means in practice:**

- Marinas must provide adequate pump-out facilities for boat sewage — it must be accessible, clearly signed, and in working order.
- Stormwater run-off from boat maintenance areas (anti-fouling paint, cleaning chemicals) must be managed and not allowed to flow directly into the marina basin.
- Any discharge of bilge water, greywater, or sewage directly into the basin is prohibited and represents a serious regulatory breach.

**Photo comparison discussion (slide 6):**

| Non-compliant (Bad Practice) | Compliant (Good Practice) |
|---|---|
| Broken pump-out with hoses discharging into basin | Easy-access pump-out, clearly maintained |
| No informational signage for boaters | Clear multilingual signage throughout |
| Staff unaware of boater discharge habits | Staff actively informing boaters of rules |

ECOMARINAS Indicator: Wastewater and sewage management. Evidence required: photographs of facilities, maintenance logs, and signage documentation.

## Pillar 2: Waste Management

Relevant EU Frameworks: Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Port Reception Facilities Directive (2019/883/EU).

**What this means in practice:**

- Marinas operating as port reception facilities must provide clearly separated waste fractions: general waste, recyclables, hazardous waste (oils, batteries, anti-fouling paint residues).
- Hazardous waste bins must be locked or secured to prevent contamination and unauthorized disposal.
- Visual instructions (multilingual where appropriate) must be posted at waste stations.

ECOMARINAS Indicator: Waste infrastructure and sorting. Inspector focus: separation, labelling, and accessibility.

**Common Failure**

*Inspectors frequently find that oil cans and chemical containers have been placed in general household waste bins. This is both a regulatory breach and a safety hazard. Clear labelling and physical separation of hazardous waste are the most important actions a marina can take.*

## Pillar 3: Nature Protection & Sensitive Areas

Relevant EU Frameworks: Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Natura 2000 network.

**What this means in practice:**

- Many Baltic marinas operate within or adjacent to Natura 2000 protected areas. Even if the marina itself is outside the boundary, activities that affect the protected area can trigger obligations.
- Dredging, construction, and major infrastructure works near protected areas require prior environmental assessment and often specific permits.
- Lighting, noise, and boating activity during sensitive breeding seasons (typically spring and early summer) must be managed to minimise disturbance to protected species.

ECOMARINAS Indicator: Biodiversity and habitat protection. Evidence required: habitat survey records, permit documentation for dredging, lighting management plans.

**Key Message**

*Early communication with competent authorities (environmental agencies, nature protection departments) before undertaking any significant infrastructure change saves time and avoids enforcement action. Document these communications.*

## Pillar 4: Energy, Climate & Electrification

Relevant EU Frameworks: Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU, revised 2023), Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), EU Fit for 55 package.

**What this means in practice:**

- Shore power (electrical connection for boats at berth, replacing running diesel engines) is rapidly becoming a regulatory expectation in larger marinas, especially following AFIR requirements for core TEN-T network ports.
- Marinas are expected to have a credible energy management approach — even if full electrification is years away, having a documented phased upgrade plan signals compliance intent.
- LED lighting, energy monitoring, and solar panels are increasingly common and positively noted by inspectors as evidence of environmental commitment.

ECOMARINAS Indicator: Energy efficiency and emissions. Note: inspectors distinguish between marinas that have no plan and those that have a realistic, phased approach — even if the goal is not yet achieved.

## Pillar 5: Fuels, Chemicals & Safety

Relevant EU Frameworks: Industrial Emissions Directive, SEVESO Directive (where quantities trigger thresholds), national spill response regulations.

**What this means in practice:**

- Fuel storage must meet secondary containment requirements (bunding) to prevent spills reaching the water.
- Spill response equipment (spill kits, absorbent booms, contact numbers for emergency response) must be visible, accessible, and staff must know how to use them.
- Staff training records for hazardous substance handling are a key inspection document.
- Anti-fouling paint application and removal must be managed under containment; waste residues are classified as hazardous waste.

**Inspector Question**

*Inspectors often open this section with: 'What happens if something spills right now?' The answer should not be hesitation. Staff should be able to point to the spill kit and describe the immediate response procedure without consulting a manual.*

# Section 5: Inspection Readiness — What Inspectors Really Look For

**Key Finding**

Most penalties in Baltic marinas are not issued for pollution events. They are issued for missing documentation — procedures that were never written, training that was never recorded, signs that were never posted.

## The Four Elements Inspectors Assess (Slide 11)

| Element | What this means for your marina |
|---|---|
| **Procedures** | Written procedures for waste handling, sewage pump-out operation, spill response, and hazardous substance storage. Procedures do not need to be elaborate — a one-page laminated card posted at the relevant location often suffices. |
| **Training records** | Evidence that staff have been briefed on environmental procedures. Even informal training counts if it is recorded with a date and signature. Inspectors want to see that knowledge has been transmitted. |
| **Visual order** | A clean, well-organised marina signals compliance before a single question is asked. Labelled bins, clear signage, secured hazardous waste, visible spill kits — these all communicate that environmental management is taken seriously. |
| **Staff awareness** | Inspectors regularly ask staff members directly: 'What do you do if there is a fuel spill?' or 'Where does the pump-out waste go?' Staff who can answer confidently demonstrate a genuine compliance culture, not just paper compliance. |

## Practical Inspection Preparation Checklist

Use this checklist as a discussion prompt or leave-behind for participants:

- All waste bins are clearly labelled in the marina's primary language(s)
- Pump-out facility is operational and signed — test it monthly
- Spill kit is visible, stocked, and all staff know its location

- Written spill response procedure is posted at the fuel dock
- Hazardous waste (oils, batteries, paint waste) is stored separately and secured
- Staff have received documented environmental briefing in the last 12 months
- No direct discharge points from maintenance areas to the marina basin
- Dredging or construction works have all required permits in the file

# Section 6: Baltic Context & Local Challenges (Slide 12)

The regulatory framework was largely designed with larger, year-round port operations in mind. Baltic marinas face a set of specific challenges that are worth acknowledging and contextualising for your audience.

| Baltic Challenge | Practical Implication |
|---|---|
| **Short, intense seasonality** | Most marinas are at full operational capacity for only 3–4 months. Compliance systems must work with skeleton staff in shoulder seasons and be maintained off-season. |
| **Ice and extreme weather** | Pump-out facilities, fuel systems, and waste infrastructure must be weatherised and maintained through freeze-thaw cycles. Inspectors are aware of this — document your winterisation procedures. |
| **Aging infrastructure** | Many Baltic marinas operate facilities built decades before current environmental standards. Phased improvement plans, with documented timelines and progress, are a legitimate and accepted compliance pathway. |
| **Small, multi-tasking teams** | In many marinas, a single harbour master covers operations, safety, maintenance, and environmental compliance. Procedures must be simple, visible, and easy to follow without specialist knowledge. |

## Compliance as Competitive Advantage (Slide 13)

This is the positive reframing moment of the lecture. Environmentally compliant marinas are more attractive to:

- High-value international cruising yachts — skippers research environmental credentials before selecting marinas
- Charter operators and sailing clubs looking for Eco-label or certification recognition
- Grant and funding bodies — ECOMARINAS certification is increasingly a prerequisite for infrastructure investment
- Local tourism authorities promoting sustainable maritime tourism

**Key Message for Participants**

The ECOMARINAS standard helps turn your invisible compliance efforts into visible value. Every improvement you make for regulatory reasons is also a marketing and commercial asset.

# Section 7: Interactive Activities & Discussion Questions

## Interactive Reflection (Slide 14)

The slide notes suggest this can be run as a Kahoot activity or as an open group discussion. The question is: 'Which of these areas causes the biggest headache in your marina?'

Suggested response categories (for Kahoot or show-of-hands):

- Water and sewage management
- Waste separation and hazardous waste
- Nature protection and permit requirements
- Energy and electrification
- Fuel, chemicals and spill response

Use the results to tailor the Q&A session — spend more time on the area that is most challenging for the group.

## Suggested Discussion Questions

Use these at any point during the lecture or in a closing Q&A:

- Has anyone in the room received a formal inspection report? What were the most common findings?
- What is the single most difficult regulatory requirement to maintain at your marina, and why?
- How do you currently communicate environmental rules to visiting boaters who may speak a different language?
- If you had a budget of €500 to improve environmental compliance at your marina, what would you spend it on?

# Section 8: Key Concepts Glossary

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| **ECOMARINAS** | Interreg South Baltic project aimed at raising environmental standards in Baltic marinas through certification, training, and knowledge exchange. |
| **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** | EU Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for EU water policy, requiring member states to achieve good ecological status for all water bodies. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **MARPOL** | International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. Annex IV covers sewage from vessels. Marinas must provide compliant pump-out facilities. |
| **HELCOM** | Helsinki Commission — the governing body of the Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area. |
| **Natura 2000** | The EU network of protected natural areas established under the Habitats and Birds Directives. Activities near these sites require environmental assessment. |
| **Port Reception Facility (PRF)** | Shore-based facility for receiving waste from ships and boats, as required by the EU Port Reception Facilities Directive (2019/883/EU). |
| **Shore Power** | Electrical supply from the marina to boats at berth, enabling vessels to shut down their diesel generators. Also called cold ironing. |
| **AFIR** | Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation — EU regulation mandating the rollout of charging and fuelling infrastructure for alternative fuels, including shore power at ports. |
| **Secondary Containment** | Physical barrier (bunding, drip trays) designed to contain spills from fuel tanks or chemical storage, preventing them from reaching the water. |
| **ECOMARINAS Indicator** | A specific, measurable aspect of marina environmental performance assessed as part of ECOMARINAS certification. |

## Section 9: Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Do regulations apply differently to small marinas versus large commercial ports?**

Yes, proportionality is a recognised principle. Small leisure marinas are generally subject to lighter-touch requirements than commercial ports, but the core obligations — pump-out, waste separation, hazardous substance management, no direct discharges — apply to all.

**Q: We are near a Natura 2000 area but our marina was built before it was designated. Are we still obliged to comply?**

Yes. Existing operations within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites are not exempt from obligations. However, the approach tends to be proportionate — gradual improvement, early communication with authorities, and documented habitat management plans are all recognised as positive steps.

**Q: What is the minimum documentation a small marina needs to maintain for compliance?**

At minimum: a waste management record (what waste fractions are collected, how often, and by whom), a pump-out maintenance log, a spill response procedure, and a record of staff environmental briefings. These four documents cover the most common inspection gaps.

## Section 10: Resources & Further Reading

- ECOMARINAS Project Website: www.ecomarinas.eu — certification criteria, training materials, and case studies from South Baltic marinas
- HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan — overview of the Baltic-specific environmental obligations: www.helcom.fi
- EU Water Framework Directive — full text and guidance: environment.ec.europa.eu/water/water-framework-directive
- EU Port Reception Facilities Directive (2019/883/EU) — guidance for marina operators
- The Green Blue (UK): www.thegreenblue.org.uk — practical environmental guides for marina and boating sector
- Blue Flag Programme (FEE): www.blueflag.global — international marina and beach certification with detailed environmental criteria