



Seas At Risk

**MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION  
LEAFLET**

# Seas At Risk in a nutshell

For over 30 years, Seas at Risk has championed the cause of the European marine environment and that of seas and oceans around the world. An umbrella organisation of environmental NGOs across Europe, we promote ambitious policies for marine protection at European and international level. We strive for seas and an ocean whose marine life is abundant, diverse, climate-resilient, and unthreatened by human pressures. Our network of member organisations in every corner of the EU shares our dedication to protecting the marine environment and their crucial ecosystems. Our long history of successful advocacy work and a passionate team means that we have an important level of insight and understanding of the problems facing the marine environment, as well as the ideas, individuals and institutions that are key to solving them. With a fast-growing membership representing millions of citizens, this advocacy carries both political and intellectual weight.

Recent Seas At Risk successes reflect our persistent advocacy, compelling arguments, good connections to key decision-makers and close collaboration with other organisations.

We currently focus on four strands of work:

- **Rewilding the ocean** - marine protected areas, marine governance, maritime spatial planning and the Marine Directive;
- **Climate and ocean** - offshore renewables and climate-friendly shipping;
- **Clean ocean** - plastic pollution and ocean noise pollution;
- **Regenerative ocean use** - fisheries, aquaculture and deep-sea mining.

Geographically, we focus on the ocean and seas around Europe, primarily the North Sea, Irish Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and the North East Atlantic.

Seas At Risk members are all national or international environmental NGOs that coordinate projects and campaigns for the protection of the marine environment and marine life. Seas At Risk and our members regularly come together in workshops, seminars and meetings to share experiences and best practices and to coordinate joint actions to increase the impact of the work. We provide the platform for this knowledge exchange and play a pivotal role in ensuring that agreed ideas turn into action.

EU decision-making is heavily influenced by individual EU country positions and our national members play a key role in keeping Seas At Risk staff informed of developments in their country that can influence EU policies and progress on implementing agreed policy and legislation. In turn, our team keeps members informed of relevant EU policy developments and emerging issues and supports them to ensure that national government delegations to EU and international meetings are properly briefed and aware of the concerns of Blue NGOs.





## What makes Seas At Risk unique?

We are the only European umbrella organisation that covers a broad range of marine environmental policy issues and is open to membership for all genuine NGOs active in the field of marine environment. This makes Seas At Risk a unique and unifying actor for the European marine environmental movement and gives us a strong voice in EU and international policy processes.

## The team

Based in the heart of Brussels, Seas At Risk has policy teams dedicated to biodiversity and pollution, in addition to an operations team. Our working language is English.





## Why become a member?

**Knowledge of and input to EU and international policy processes** - Seas At Risk functions as a technical and political platform for our members. Our policy officers monitor developments, inform our members and coordinate responses to specific issues. We enjoy good relationships with the EU institutions, including the Commission and the Parliament, have observer status in other key institutions, such as the UN International Maritime Organisation and the OSPAR Commission for the protection of the North-East Atlantic, and are a member of advisory bodies, such as the Advisory Councils on fisheries policy.

**Information sharing and advocacy coordination** - We develop joint position papers, publish reports, issue press releases (often in collaboration with our members) and provide guidance to our members on national intervention on marine issues. We also organise thematic workshops and seminars throughout the year, where speakers from the European Commission (among others) allow our members to have direct dialogue with EU policymakers. Several of our activities are developed in collaboration with experts from our member organisations.

We produce a regular briefing that outlines the current activities of our team, as well as a bi-monthly newsletter with news and articles on our work and that of our members.

By coordinating advocacy at national level and ensuring that issues are raised effectively at international meetings, Seas At Risk prompts governments to make the right decisions about this truly international environmental issue - protection of our seas and ocean.



# How Seas At Risk works with its members

## Annual General Meetings

The Seas At Risk membership network comes together formally each year at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to discuss and approve the forthcoming work programme and budget.



## Support

Seas At Risk offers support on policy and communications and our team is readily available to our members.



## Communication

Our communication team can boost your profile on our website, newsletter and social media channels, and provide you with relevant tools to help communication at national level. The target audience of our newsletter is constituted mainly by national and EU policy makers, journalists, NGOs scientific bodies and consultancies.



## Community

Seas At Risk considers our member network a community, where we can easily share and disseminate relevant information and campaigns. Each of our member organisations has a delegate in the Assembly that governs the organisation, meaning that our members' concerns are always to the forefront of our work.



## Working Groups

Each policy subject has its own dedicated policy group, and members can sign up to the topic of their choice. Policy groups are used to exchange information and experiences, organise regular thematic workshops, and webinars. They are also used to develop position papers, briefings and policy strategies, and to discuss latest campaigns.



## Seas At Risk organisational structure

Seas At Risk is governed by an Assembly, consisting of one delegate from each member organisation. The Assembly meets once a year, normally in June, where it debates and agrees the forthcoming work programme and associated budget.

A Management Committee consisting of the Chair of the Assembly, the Treasurer, Secretary and (at most) six other Assembly delegates is responsible for ensuring that the work programme is executed efficiently and consistently with the agreed budget.

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the organisation. Between Assembly meetings, Seas At Risk staff and experts from our member organisations collaborate in issue-specific policy groups.





# Membership categories, rights & eligibility

SAR membership falls into 3 categories: **Full member**, **Associate member** and **Honorary member**. Please see below to find out the rights and eligibility of each category and which one may apply to you.

## Eligibility full & associate members:

- National and international NGOs where their purpose includes the protection and restoration of the marine environment
  - Full members: with a primary focus on European seas and/or European policies.
  - Associate members: with a relevance to European seas and/or European policies.
- Members must support the vision and mission of Seas At Risk.
- Members must be committed to the central principles of the protection of the marine environment, sustainability, precautionary action, integration, equity, and democratisation.
- A member must be a legal entity with an organisational structure and clear statutes, and a transparent management and responsibility structure.
- Sources of the member's funding must not unduly influence or dictate the work being undertaken by SAR.
- At least one person in the member organisation should be sufficiently proficient in English to be able to work with Seas At Risk.

## Eligibility honorary members:

- A status conferred on a small number of Individuals on the basis of the moral support or actual work they have contributed or will contribute towards the protection and restoration of the marine environment
- The individual must support the vision and mission of Seas At Risk.
- The individual must be committed to the central principles of the protection of the marine environment, sustainability, precautionary action, integration, equity, and democratisation.
- Should be sufficiently proficient in English to be able to work with Seas At Risk.



# Membership categories, rights & eligibility

## Membership rights

	Full	Associate	Honorary
Can actively participate in all workshops and working groups of their choice.	✓	✓	If invited
Access to all Seas At Risk policy relevant information.	✓	Access to policy information as appropriate.	Access to policy information as appropriate.
Entitled to speak and vote at General Assembly Meetings (AGM & EGM). One vote per member.	Right to speak and vote if all membership fees are paid	May participate, right to speak with the approval of the chairperson, but cannot vote	May participate in an observer capacity but cannot vote.
Entitled to propose candidates for honorary membership to the chairperson.	✓	✗	✗
Entitled to reimbursement of travel and accommodation for attending Seas At Risk events.	✓	✗	As appropriate
Membership Fee	Pays 100% of membership fee.	Pays 50% of membership fee.	Not liable for Membership fee.



## Membership fees

The annual fees are determined by Seas At Risk's Assembly. The membership fee is based on the most recent known annual income of the member organisation.

Total Annual Income (Euros)	Membership fee (Euros)
< 50,000	200
50,000 - 100,000	300
100,000 - 300,000	400
300,000 - 500,000	500
500,000 - 750,000	750
750,000 - 1,000,000	1,000
1,000,000 - 1,500,000	1,500
1,500,000 - 2,00,000	2,000
> 2,000,000	3,000

# Membership responsibilities

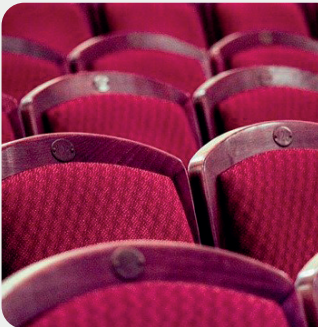
To ensure a harmonious membership community, we ask each member the following:



Appoint one contact person with responsibility to liaise with Seas At Risk via the Member Liaison Officer and to keep their relevant colleagues informed and updated on SAR activities.



Seek to give visibility and promote Seas At Risk on a national level through its own channels.



Whenever a member plans to participate in meetings or speak at events on topics relevant for SAR, planned at EU level or international fora where SAR is active, the member should seek to ensure a coherent position with SAR.

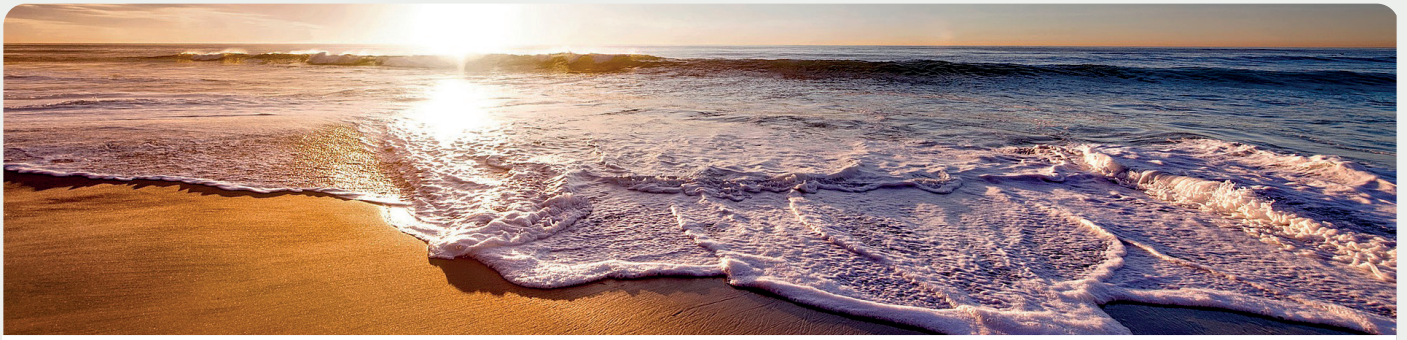
A member can participate in meetings or events on behalf of SAR, but will have to inform and coordinate with the SAR secretariat, ensure the relevant positions are aligned with SAR, and report on the meeting afterwards.



The member should seek to exchange information with other members and the SAR Secretariat on relevant meetings and events.



At each AGM, SAR staff will present a list of the EU level and international fora where SAR secretariat is active.



## How to apply for membership

National and international NGOs whose purpose includes the protection and restoration of the marine environment are warmly welcomed as members of Seas At Risk.

Becoming a member of Seas At Risk is easy:

- Send an application letter in English (one side of A4 letterhead) describing why your organisation wishes to become a Member Organisation of Seas At Risk to the Member Liaison Officer, Louisa Gray: [lgray@seas-at-risk.org](mailto:lgray@seas-at-risk.org)
- Include a completed application form.
- Include a copy of your organisation's statutes.

Your application will be considered by the Management Committee and then submitted to the Assembly members of Seas At Risk for a decision. The entire process takes about three months.

Once accepted as a member, you will be invited to join policy groups and collaborate with Seas At Risk. You will also be asked present your organisation to your fellow members at the next AGM .

### CONTACT DETAILS

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