

CLEAN WATER SPORTS ALLIANCE



PADDLE^{UK}

RYA



OUR VISION

Healthy and nature rich blue spaces across the UK for everyone to enjoy water sports.

WHO ARE WE?

A coalition of National Governing Bodies who represent almost 450,000 members, elite athletes, participants and many more water users. Together we rely on the use of UK waters for sport and recreation.

We are advocating for the restoration of our blue spaces for the enjoyment of all. We want these environments to be free of pollution and havens for wildlife.

We are working together to drive positive change, improve water quality and the health of our blue spaces for all.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Further and faster action on pollution. Improving the health of UK waters by 2030.

Enable people to make real-time informed choices about where and when to participate in water-based sports and activities.

Recognition of all recreational water users across decision making and policy.

WE'RE CALLING FOR...

ASK 1

Regulators to be adequately funded to monitor, investigate and hold polluters to account, harnessing nature based solutions.

ASK 2

Enable accurate access to real-time water quality information all year round including the compulsory monitoring of all sewage outlets; recognition of open source science relating to water quality and the creation of a centralised information hub for all water sports users.

ASK 3

Advocate a change from 'bathing waters' to 'recreation waters' within government policy to recognise the wide range of activities that depend on clean water.

WHY WE EXIST

In just the last 6 months of 2021, approximately 69 paddle sport training sessions were lost, equating to 106 hours in Nottingham alone.



In the 2023 triathlon season, an unprecedented number of events were changed to duathlons after the swim being cancelled due to water quality concerns.



Formula Kite European Championships in Portsmouth September 2023 were subject to sewage discharges along the coast in the days leading up to the event.

In April 2024, a number of rowers who participated in the Boat Race became ill through E-coli contamination in the River Thames.



Only 15% of rivers achieved good or above ecological status in England creating a serious public health risk and a threat to wildlife.

15%

£4bn

Biodiversity is also being put under immense pressure, costing the UK £4 billion a year.