



The war Rages On between common sense and the Maritime Laws in Spain, but we are winning battles every day. The first battle was held in 2012. The mission: To convince the local administration to support and make Galicia a Mega Yacht destination. Victory was awarded to Common sense and the web page www.megayachtsgalicia.com was born!! Also we were able to invite a few key players to visit the area and see the possibilities that it offers. This year we have meet with the Local Administration with bigger promoting goals that includes two invitations to visit Galicia in summer and autumn.

We are presenting battle in two fronts, 1) to be able to regulate better the requirements for Piloting on yachts over 500 GT and 2) to keep the administration aware of the useless 12% matriculation tax imposed on charter yachts over 15 meters in Spain.

Piloting warfare

The use of a Pilot entering a Spanish port is compulsory if the vessel passes the 500 GT limit. This can be a hassle if you are planning to navigate inside the Galician Fiords o Rias. Imagine the Captain asking for the pilot service every time the owner decides to go to the near by beach by its yacht instead with the tender!! This is not viable, but is the law. So we ask the administration to do something that could be legal but not a hassle for the Captain

We did not win the war in this issue, but we just win a big, big battle over it. The Pilots are proposing a one time fixed low rate fee regardless the number of times they have to assist the Yacht.

This means that the Pilots will be available for the captain every time he needs them 24 hours a day / 7 days a week with no extra cost for the services. This is the first step towards VHF Radio Piloting assistance or simply becoming an optional service as in the rest of Europe.

In Spain, the use of Pilots on vessels over 500 GT is a law requirement, but there are exceptions and situations that allow each Port Harbormaster to run their Port as they see fit (always inside the law). I do not know how the Harbormaster will act in other Spanish ports, but in Vigo, it will be as simple as a flat low fee for all the piloting services during the stay at the Marina.

The 12% Matriculation Tax

This battle rages on, but there are some positions that we are gaining over the enemy. The President of Xunta de Galicia took a personal interest in this matter after the meeting with our September guests (Check newsletter June /October 2012) and explained the negative results of this law on the Spanish yacht Charter economy. I know for a fact that He did and the central administration pillars are being shaken!! We may have not won this battle, but the war is not over yet.

The Sanremo Tax Incident

With the crisis hitting the world, in Europe, the imagination deprived politicians look towards the Mega Yacht industry hoping to increase the country's diminished revenues.

One good example is what happened in SanRemo with the Tax-free bunkering. It is evident that I do not agree with this irrational behavior and I will not comment further on it. BUT!!! I do remind you that in Vigo we do tax free bunkering with out a Charter contract.

In Vigo we deliver Tax Free bunkering just with the presentation of a commercial yacht registration, even better if the Yacht has a valid IMO number. So, before heading to the Mediterranean, consider stopping by Marina Davila to satisfy all your Bunkering needs. Just email me to get you a quote or if you need more information:

jfdavila@davilasport.es.



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Last but not Least:

We all know Patricia Bullock (She is not Sandra's sister...I ask her already) and Peter Franklin (The Islander) have put together a very interesting forum. we will try to be there representing the capacity that Galicia has to offer in New construction and Refit (We offer Top quality & Best prices). Their web page is:

<http://www.talkyachtspalma.org/>