



[Underwater noise pollution](#) has been impacting marine mammals for decades. The increasing number of ships travelling across the seas is disrupting the underwater lives of these animals and putting their survival at risk.

IFAW has come up with a realistic, quick-to-implement and effective solution: reduce shipping speeds (aka blue speeds). The [latest economic research](#) shows that in addition to reducing to ocean noise, the risk of ship strikes and greenhouse gas emissions, blue speeds could also lead to an estimated 4.5 billion euros in socioeconomic benefits. Read more about our Blue Speeds Campaign below and [sign the petition](#) calling on European institutions to adopt Blue Speeds, an EU-wide measure for the implementation of slower ship speeds as a condition of entry into European ports.

Around the world, disasters are escalating in frequency and severity. In Europe, severe flooding hit Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Sicily in 2021, and summer heat waves and wildfires scorched France and other countries in southern Europe in 2021 and 2022.

Launched on 13 October, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, IFAW's report [Beyond Rescue: Animals in Disasters – Europe](#) finds that current humanitarian models of disaster management in Europe neglect the inclusion of animals in policies and planning, thus endangering the lives of people and animals. This is why IFAW is advocating for critical policy changes to include animals in disaster.

Our team continues to combat wildlife crime in Europe. Following our advocacy efforts, the adoption of the [Digital Services Act](#) sets the foundation to tackle wildlife cybercrime. Looking to Southeast Asia, the EU is funding the Partners against Wildlife Crime initiative where IFAW organized a [workshop](#) to share lessons learned and best practices in counter wildlife cybercrime efforts.

While progress is being made to fight wildlife trafficking our latest joint report [Stolen Wildlife](#) revealed the EU continues to be a main hub and destination for wildlife, which has been 'stolen' from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania.

Enjoy the read!

Staci McLennan
Director of Policy – Europe



blue speeds: socioeconomic benefits of up to €4.5 billion a year from slowing down ships

Speed reduction for commercial ships entering and leaving EU waters could bring up to 4.5 billion Euros in socioeconomic benefits, along with having a sizable effect in to reduce noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and the risk of collision with whales. [Read the IFAW-commissioned independent CE Delft study.](#)



new report: include animals in disaster planning

A new report released by IFAW finds that an increase in the frequency and severity of disasters in Europe requires critical policy changes to address the impact on animals. [Read the report.](#)



the European Parliament calls for ambitious EU action on wildlife trade

The European Parliament urged the European Commission and Member States to take a stronger stand against illegal wildlife trade and to further protect threatened species at CITES CoP19. [Read more.](#)



combating wildlife cybercrime in Great Mekong Region and Malaysia

Civil society groups from across Southeast Asia met to explore ways to improve their abilities to combat wildlife cybercrime—the illegal online trade of wild animals. [Learn more.](#)



EU continues to be a major destination for stolen wildlife

This joint report exposes European complicity in illegal wildlife trade, with EU citizens not only being involved in the smuggling of nationally protected wildlife, but also perpetuating the market for these animals. [Read the report.](#)

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