
INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS

ABOUT FISHING AND SAFETY AT SEA IN NORWAY



Norwegian Maritime Authority in collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries, the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Norwegian Hospitality Association and Innovation Norway

Welcome to Norway!

By using recreational boats for fishing and outdoor activities in Norway you can experience some of the most beautiful sights and scenery Norway has to offer. However, it is important that you know about the risk factors associated with the use of a recreational craft, and the rules that apply to recreational fishing in Norway.

Respect for nature and its immense power is rule number one. Each year, an average of 33 people die in boating accidents in Norway. Around 10% of these fatalities are foreign tourists. Many of these accidents could have been avoided if the recreational boat users had shown greater respect for the dangers and been better prepared.

To ensure that you have a memorable and safe stay, we wish to inform you about some precautions that you as a recreational boat user in Norway must take. In addition, you will also find useful information about fishing rules.

Boat and equipment hire liability

The main responsibility for maintaining safety rests with the boat hire company. However, as the renter you have a responsibility to prevent undesirable events from occurring. It is therefore important that you follow the instructions and recommendations that are given, and consider whether you have the qualifications to operate a boat. For more information see www.dsb.no.



Photo: Andreas Glossner (iStockphoto)

Boating licence

If you were born 1 January 1980 or later, you are required to have a boating licence (recreational craft skipper's licence) to operate a recreational craft longer than 8 metres or with engines larger than 25 hp. A recreational craft skipper's licence issued in another EEA Member State is valid in accordance with the content of the licence. Foreign licences not issued in another Member State are valid if they substantially meet the requirements of the Norwegian boating licence and are issued in a Scandinavian language or English.

The party that rents you a boat is responsible for checking that you meet these requirements, and will refuse to rent to you if you cannot produce documentation. No licence is required for persons born before 1 January 1980.

Questions concerning the Norwegian boating licence may be directed to the Norwegian Maritime Authority tel: + 47 52 74 50 00.

For your own safety

Flotation clothing should be worn during the entire voyage. It's too late to start looking for your life jacket when you land in the water.

If a mobile phone is your only means of communication, it should be stored in a waterproof bag.

Avoid standing in the boat as much as possible. This increases the risk of capsizing and falls overboard.

We recommend that you and the boat hire company go through the checklist on pages 4 and 5 of this booklet.

Review of safety

Before the customer is permitted to take the boat out on the water, the boat hire company must ensure that the customer is aware of the relevant safety regulations. Once this is done, both the boat hire company and the customer must ensure that the relevant safety regulations may result in liability and loss of the right to operate boats.

Contact telephones	The customer's contact telephone is:
	The contact telephone for the facility is:
	The customer's contact telephone has been tested onboard with him and to keep the phone well charged.
	The customer has been informed about the mobile telephone number.
Onshore Safety	The customer is familiar with the emergency exits, fire extinguishers and first aid kit.
	The customer is familiar with the facility's routines for the use of the boat.
Emergency Phone Numbers	The customer has been told where the emergency telephone is.
	The emergency phone number is: The telephone number of the Norwegian Search and Rescue Service is:
How to use the boat and its motor	The customer is familiar with the correct way to control the motor.
	The customer has been instructed on how to use the motor.
	The customer has been informed about the information on the motor.
	The customer has been informed that the dead-man's switch must be used when the motor is running (except next to piers or wharfs).
	The customer has been instructed on how to fill fuel tanks.
	The boat and the motor were handed over to the customer.
Equipment found onboard the boat	The customer has been informed about the type of equipment found onboard the boat.
	The life-saving equipment has been demonstrated and used.
	The customer has been given necessary training in the use of the equipment.
The weather and weather reports	The customer has been given information about the weather.
	The customer has been informed of his responsibility for the weather.
	The customer has been informed on the weather reports provided by the boat hire company for customers at sea.
Information on sea charts and waters	The customer has been given information on sea charts and given instructions on how to use these charts.
	The customer has been given information on traffic regulations when travelling by boat in and around such areas.
	The customer has been given information on sea marks.
	The customer has been given information about fishing regulations when travelling by boat in areas where fish farms are located.
Restrictions on drinking alcohol when boating	The customer has been given information on Norwegian regulations on drinking alcohol when boating.
Liability insurance	The customer has been given information about the liability insurance.
Absence from the facility	The customer has been briefed about the facility's routines for the use of the boat.
	The customer has been given instructions on what to do in the event of an emergency.
Signatures	Both the customer and the boat hire company must sign the relevant documents provided and understood.

Place: _____ date: _____ / 20....

instructions

Boat hire company together with the customer shall go through important instructions and the customer shall sign this form. Failure to comply with the safety instructions may result in the boat hire company not being liable for any damage or injury.

	YES	NO
Boat hire company and the customer has been instructed to carry the phone and use it at all times.		
Boat hire company has telephone coverage in the area.		
Boat hire company has fire extinguishers, and first-aid kits for the facility.		
Boat hire company has procedures for reporting absences onshore.		
Boat hire company phone numbers can be found on board.		
Boat hire company has provided Emergency Rescue Service is: Coastal radio station +47 120 Police 112		
Boat hire company has instructed himself onboard a boat (weight distribution etc.).		
Boat hire company has explained the boat and the motor.		
Boat hire company has provided information found onboard and where this information is located.		
Boat hire company has explained the start button found on the outboard motor shall always be used when the motor is started.		
Boat hire company has explained the boat is in good condition.		
Boat hire company has explained the equipment found aboard.		
Boat hire company has explained the equipment has been checked and tested.		
Boat hire company has explained the use of electronic aids.		
Boat hire company has explained the weather conditions found in the area.		
Boat hire company has explained the importance of staying updated on the weather reports.		
Boat hire company has explained the reporting routines and routines for contact with the customer used by the boat hire company.		
Boat hire company has explained the charts. If the facility has specific route charts, the customer has been informed of their location.		
Boat hire company has explained the restrictions in the area, especially dangerous areas and safe conduct areas.		
Boat hire company has explained the marks found in the area.		
Boat hire company has explained the rules concerning farms and commercial fishing in the area and correct conduct when boating in the area and/or commercial fishing occurs.		
Boat hire company has explained the relevant Norwegian law relating to drinking alcohol and boating.		
Boat hire company has explained the facility's general and liability insurance.		
Boat hire company has explained the rules concerning how long and how far the boat can be taken out to sea.		
Boat hire company has explained what to do in case of emergencies.		
Customer has signed this form to signify that the safety instructions have been given and understood.		

Boat hire company's signature

Customer's signature

Guidelines for recreational seafishing in Norway

You are welcome to fish in the Norwegian seawater, provided that you follow a set of simple rules:

- Respect the minimum fish sizes specified. See the table for minimum fish sizes overleaf.
- Foreign tourists are only permitted to use hand-held tackle.
- Tourists are permitted to take up to 15 kg of fish or fish fillets and one (whole) trophy fish out of the country. This export-restriction does not apply for tourists who buy directly from commercial fishermen. You will need to show a receipt for your purchase when leaving the country.
- You must keep a distance of more than 100 metres from the closest fish farm when fishing.
- Foreign tourists are not permitted to sell the catch.
- Eel and spiny dogfish are preserved species in Norway.

Minimum fish sizes for a selection of important species

In order to preserve our fish stocks in Norwegian sea waters, we encourage everyone to avoid catching fish which is under the minimum size specified. If you do catch a fish under the minimum size, free it carefully from the hook and release it to the sea. You can also try changing to a larger hook or move to a new fishing spot. If the fish is dead or is clearly not capable of surviving, you can keep it to eat.



Photo: Norwegian Seafood Council

Species	Area	Minimum size
Halibut		80 cm
Cod	North of 62° N	44 cm
	South of 62° N	40 cm
Haddock	North of 62° N	40 cm
	South of 62° N	31 cm
Plaice	In Skagerrak	27 cm
	Off the coast of Skagerrak	29 cm
Whiting		32 cm
Redfish		32 cm
Large scallop		10 cm

The length of the fish is measured from the end of the nose to the end of the outermost points of the tail fin. The size of a large scallop is measured using the longest length of the shell.

A complete table of minimum fish sizes and up-to-date regulations for fishing in the Norwegian sea are available at www.fiskeridir.no

Important phone numbers

In an emergency, please call one of the following numbers for assistance. Learn these before boarding the boat.

Coastal radio stations 120

Police 112

Ambulance 113

Remember your life jacket!



We wish you a safe and wonderful holiday in Norway:



www.sjofartsdir.no



www.fiskeridir.no



www.dsb.no



www.nhoreiseliv.no



www.visitnorway.com/fishing