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# 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

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# 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](http://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.**



## 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.

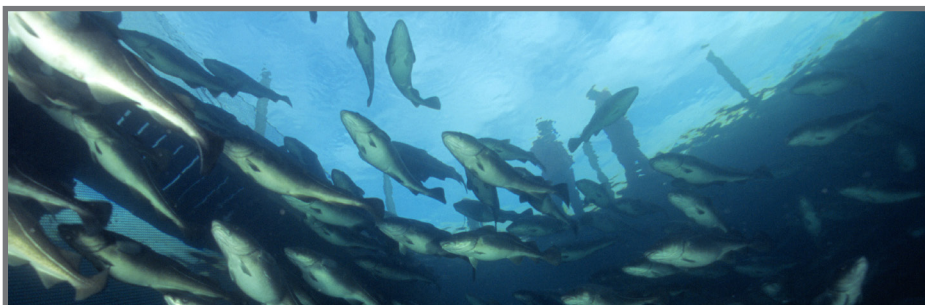


Photo: Norwegian Seafood Council

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](http://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 + 47 120**

**Police 112**

**Ambulance 113**

**Remember your life jacket!**



**We wish you a safe and wonderful holiday in Norway:**



[www.sjofartsdir.no](http://www.sjofartsdir.no)



[www.fiskeridir.no](http://www.fiskeridir.no)



[www.dsb.no](http://www.dsb.no)



[www.nhoreiseliv.no](http://www.nhoreiseliv.no)

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