

Boat etiquette (how to behave on the Boat)

- Always arrive in plenty of time to get on the boat remember getting your tackle out of the car and clothing and boots on takes time, and then you may still have to park the car. In some ports the harbour may dry out and you may be stranded
- Greet the skipper as a friend but don't ask questions as he manoeuvres the boat away from the berth or quayside as he will be very busy, wait until you are under way and he is more able to answer your questions
- Remember that the skipper's advice on tackle and bait is the best on the boat, he fishes these waters every day and knows what's catching and what's not
- Wait until the skipper has anchored and gives the ok before starting to fish, you may catch the Anchor rope or end up with your tackle streaming away from the boat if it's still moving. The boat will have to settle in the tide and may swing considerably.
- Always use bait boards to cut up your bait do not cut bait on the side of the boat, Seats or engine cover, Keep your area clean and swill off any bits of blood or bait that may be dropped.
- Always ask before uptide casting and make sure everyone on the boat knows that you are about to cast.
- Always ask the skipper before entering the cabin and ask if you can use the toilet if provided.
- Treat the boat with respect and make sure your lead does not bang the boat other anglers or most particularly the skipper whilst netting or Gaffing your fish. And always thank the skipper for giving assistance.
- On the boat the skipper gives the orders and his requests should be carried out, Your safety is in his hands
- Offer help with casting the boat off and tying up.
- Offer to clean the boat down on the way in, this will save the skipper time and he will return the favour ten fold.
- Pass cups back to the skipper when finished with and don't forget manners are free and appreciated.
- If you use the toilet or bucket on the boat make sure you leave it clean.
- Everybody enjoys a drink but only consume alcohol on the boat in moderation.

Angler to Angler Good Manners

- Keep in the area you draw on the boat whilst fishing
- Use enough Lead weight dependant on your drawn position to keep your tackle on the bottom and prevent tangles with other anglers
- If you tangle reel in together and offer assistance to untangle, do not cut another anglers tackle without getting agreement.

- If an angler gets a run from a large fish, reel in and give them chance to land it. If you don't there is a good chance you will get in a big tangle and lose more time than if you had reeled in and enjoyed the moment
- Offer assistance to inexperienced anglers.
- Help to get tackle on and off the boat, form a chain and make it easier for everyone.

Environmental good practice

- Return unwanted fish to the water as soon as possible and do not start angling again before sorting your fish
- Despatch any fish to be kept for the table. And look after them preferably in a cool box or on ice.
- If you can't get the hook out of a fish cut the line as close to the hook as possible and return the fish, try to use mild steel hooks not stainless, these rust away quickly and the fish can get rid of them.
- Do not throw rubbish into the sea use a bucket or bag and dispose of on shore

General advice

- To help avoid Sea Sickness Don't drink alcohol in excess before Boat trips, Avoid Big Fry ups
- Take preventative Sea Sickness pills in plenty of time
- Keep active on the boat and focus on the Horizon.
- If you are sick make sure you are on the down wind side or use a bucket
- Try to rehydrate with water or tea and try some dry toast.
- Keep busy and try to carry on fishing
- Wear plenty of warm clothing remember you can always take it off if you're too warm.
- If possible try to wear a Flotation suit (2 piece if possible) or Buoyancy aid particularly in windy conditions.
- Take some food and drink on long trips
- Take a hat and sunglasses sun block and lip balm to prevent cracked lips.
- If you are fishing a competition stick to the rules and make sure whoever is recording fish knows what you have caught.
- Secure your tackle and Rods whilst the boat is moving it's hard work picking up the contents of your tackle box from the deck of a rolling wet boat
- Always close and secure your tackle box as a wave in your box can often offend
- Be careful with knives and always put them back in their sheaves, if someone falls on them and gets a nasty cut it could be a long way back to get hospital treatment.