

# CHARTER BOAT FISHING

## Best practice for the safe conduct of Charter Boat Fishing in Scotland under COVID-19 restrictions – Phase 3 v2

**Approved by  
Scottish Government:  
With effect  
24 August 2020**

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### IMPORTANT:

This guidance has been updated to comply with Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's RouteMap. It is to be read in conjunction with the Angling Scotland COVID-19 Guidelines which can be found at: <http://www.anglingscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ASL-Covid-Guidelines-for-Anglers-Clubs-Fisheries-Phase-3-v2-24-Aug-20.pdf>

People who are shielding are now permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to. Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.

### Introduction

Some sporting activities, including boat Angling, can now be undertaken outdoors, providing all activity is consistent with current Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene and travel.

Sportscotland has produced the [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) to help owners and operators of sports facilities as they prepare for when sport/activity resumes.

Angling Activity undertaken on Charter Boats must fully comply with Scottish Government household, physical distancing and travel guidance with appropriate hygiene and safety measures also in place.

**Participation Limits.** Limits on the number of participants accessing outdoor facilities should be risk assessed to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained. This should take into consideration that in Phase 3, you can meet with:

- **Outdoor groups:** Up to 15 people, from up to 4 households can gather outdoors, with physical distancing maintained between households.
- **Indoor groups:** Up to 8 people, from up to 3 households can gather indoors (inc. overnight stays), with physical distancing maintained between households and avoiding creating 'bridges' between households.



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## 1 Guidance for Skippers

### General Guidance

- As a Skipper it is your decision to allow passengers onboard and, should you suspect they are displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms they should not be allowed to board. Before allowing anyone onboard you should ask if they have or have been in contact recently with anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19.
- you will also need to make sure that crew and all participants are made aware of, and can adapt to, changes in guidance at short notice. Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing COVID-19 is available at [www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/)
- It is the responsibility of the Skipper to ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of measures outlined herein. Skippers are advised to take time to ensure they reopen safely.

### Risk Assessment.

- It is the responsibility of each Skipper to undertake a documented risk assessment, based on current guidance and their local circumstances, prior to activity taking place and to provide a safety briefing to all participants. Consider safety first, particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants and crew are always protected. You must put your risk assessment on display so that Anglers can understand the risks and measures taken to manage them.

### Safety Briefing.

- You must carry out a full Safety Briefing listing all the measures in place to keep to Government guidelines and what passengers need to do to follow these guidelines.

### Health & Safety.

- It is the responsibility of the Skipper to ensure that first aid and emergency equipment is maintained correctly, has been updated appropriately for the COVID pandemic and that first aiders have undertaken appropriate additional training.
- Consideration should be given to the wearing of face masks by all on board. Should you have more than four passengers onboard then the wearing of PPE by the passengers should be mandatory, including appropriate face masks that cover the mouth and nose

### Hygiene.

- Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these. Check to ensure that hand sanitizers or wipes are available for use at entrance/exit to venue/facility where possible. Hand sanitiser should be at least 60% alcohol based and detergent wipes appropriate for the surface they are being used on. Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standards.
- Bins may be provided but should be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and disposed of using appropriate personal protective equipment.

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## Hygiene continued

- All fixed equipment should be checked prior to use to avoid participants having to adjust or touch it.
- Where shared equipment is necessary for an activity appropriate hygiene measures must be put in place to ensure the equipment is thoroughly cleaned before, during and after use.
- No personal equipment should be left at a facility by a participant once the activity has ended.
- You should deep clean the boat after each trip, ensure you comply with any harbour rules around the use of cleaning equipment.

## Health & Hygiene checklist and further Guidance.

- A checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#). Further guidance is available at:
  - [Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)
  - [Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)
  - [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
  - [St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)

## Insurance.

- Skippers should check with their insurance company that correct and full insurance cover is in place and valid before any activity takes place.

## Physical Distancing.

- All essential maintenance and preparatory work must have been completed in order to ensure compliance with Government guidance on physical distancing and hygiene
- At all times, participants and crew should adhere to the Scottish Government's social distancing guidelines of staying at least 2m away from others. Scottish Government guidelines are available at [www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/). **Participation Limits.** Limits on the number of participants accessing outdoor facilities should be risk assessed to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained. This should take into consideration that in Phase 3, you can meet with:
  - **Outdoor groups:** Up to 15 people, from up to 4 households can gather outdoors, with physical distancing maintained between households.
  - **Indoor groups:** Up to 8 people, from up to 3 households can gather indoors (incl overnight stays), with physical distancing maintained between households and avoiding creating 'bridges' between households.
- This should take into consideration that at phase 2 you can meet with up to two other households (or extended households) at a time outdoors, and no more than 8 people in total at a time.
- Where possible you should use marked areas for passengers to sit in and fish from. Passengers should only move around, once on board, if it is absolutely necessary. You should discuss your

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measures for how people should move around the boat if necessary. If possible, you should have a one way system for people to move around the boat and a system of rotation to avoid passengers from coming into contact with each other.

- Where a participant with a disability requires functional support to enable their participation in physical activity and sport this can be provided without maintain physical distancing. This support can be provided by a coach or other individual. In such circumstance the responsible 'Covid Officer' should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment. For instance, providing appropriate PPE, limiting the number of participants an individual provides functional support to, limiting the duration spent in close proximity, or a combination of actions.
- No unauthorised persons should be allowed in the cabin at any time except in a medical emergency.

## Travel Restrictions.

- Skippers should remind customers that the travel restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. While the Scottish Government has removed the travel restriction for recreational and sporting activity from 3 July 2020. We are still strongly encouraging individuals to only travel as far as is necessary to participate in angling activities. Up to date guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Getting Around](#)

## Advance Planning and Communication with Anglers:

- Skippers should ensure clear and regular communication to all Anglers. Setting out what they are doing to manage risks and encouraging them to follow the "Guidance for Anglers."
- Provide Anglers with regular updates on any changes made.
- Physical distancing – the 2m rule applies to all settings. Boats and procedures need to adapt to encourage social distancing.
- Workforce – ensure that relevant workplace guidance is followed for crew members and ensure existing health and safety advice is maintained and aligned. This should be detailed in the risk assessment.
- Cleaning – hand hygiene is a core measure and provision should be made for this where possible.

## 2

## Guidance for Anglers

### General:

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not leave your home to take part in sport or physical activity if Scottish Government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days; household members for 14 days as per NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend any outdoor sports facility/activity or attempt to board any boat.

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- If you are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government, then you can now participate provided that strict social distancing is adhered to. [Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)
- In phase 2 you can now participate with members of your household, including children, or with members from up to two other households (or extended households), with a maximum of 8 people participating in total
- Not only are Anglers expected to comply with this guidance they should also observe the current government and public health restrictions. Guidance is subject to change and will be under continuous review. We would ask all Anglers to regularly check with Angling Scotland and Skippers for updates.
- Travel from your home must be in line with Scottish Government guidelines While the Scottish Government has removed the travel restriction for recreational and sporting activity from 3 July 2020. We are still strongly encouraging individuals to only travel as far as is necessary to participate in angling competitions. Up to date guidance is available [Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Getting Around](#) .
- Always maintain social distancing and stay at least two metres away from other people including before during and after the activity or when taking breaks.

## **Prior to Boarding:**

- It is the skipper's decision to allow you on the boat. Should he suspect you are displaying any of the symptoms he is within his rights to refuse you permission to board.
- Schedule your session time in the manner prescribed by your Skipper. Under no circumstances should you arrive without booking in advance. Aim to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the time specified by your Skipper
- Disinfect your equipment including waterproofs, nets and any other items that may come into contact with you or the water.
- Ensure you have enough equipment for the entire session and you should not exchange equipment with other anglers. Minimise the amount of fishing equipment you bring to the essentials, i.e. only 2 rods, 1 medium size dry bag, 1 box plus your bait board and bucket. Bait can be carried in the bucket along with weights etc. **Nothing is to be placed in the cabin.**
- Please bring your own soap / sanitiser, small bait board, small knife and bucket with a string attachment – do not risk cross contaminating others.
- Park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

## **On Board:**

- If you are asked to wear PPE by the skipper, you should do so.
- The cabin will be off limits to all passengers at all times. This is to protect the health of the Skipper/crew and minimise risk. Only the skipper can allow entry to the cabin in exceptional circumstances.
- Use your own hand wash and sanitiser regularly, ensure the area you are fishing from is regularly cleansed, especially handrails.

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- The skipper will issue guidance on toilet facilities. If use of the boat's toilet is permitted, ensure you wear disposable gloves and follow the Government advice on cleaning your hands before and after use. Clean anything you touch in the toilet thoroughly using the cleaning equipment provided by the skipper, disposing of used material in the bin provided.
- Keep all your 'rubbish' in your own bag and dispose of it ashore to avoid cross contamination.
- Bring your own soft drinks (no alcohol, no glass bottles) and food. The boat's galley area will not be available to passengers.
- Be aware that there will be no access to the wheelhouse or indoor facilities. Dress appropriately.
- Do not share equipment, food or drink with others unless from the same household.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied on board or place in a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.
- **Always follow good hand and respiratory hygiene guidelines e.g. washing of hands, use of face coverings in enclosed spaces.**

### 3 Useful Links

[Angling Scotland Website](#)

[Angling Scotland Facebook](#)

[Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

[Scottish Government: Covid-19 Framework for decision making](#)

[Scottish Government Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others](#)

[Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)

[Scottish Government Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Getting Around](#)

[Coronavirus Government Job Retention \('furlough'\) scheme](#)

[Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)

[Professional & Performance Sport Resumption Guidance](#)

[Getting your coaches ready for sport](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)

[St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)