

BOAT HANDLING & SAFETY ADVICE

Boat fishing

Boat fishing can be great fun, offering a wider range of fishing tactics and giving access to the vast areas of water that cannot be reached from the bank. But it can be spoilt if you don't follow some simple common sense rules.

To help guide you to a safe time on our waters we have put together two pages of tips and instructions. Make sure you read them thoroughly before venturing out onto our lakes.

Don't be afraid to ask

If you are not sure how to use our boats and engines then please ask. Our friendly staff are only too willing to help talk you through the correct procedure and they

might even be able to give you some useful tips on the latest fishing hot spots.

You must wear a life jacket

Once you been allocated a boat number and before getting into the boat, you must put a life jacket on. This is to be worn at all times when afloat. Failure to wear an approved life jacket or buoyancy aid will result in you being called off the water. Life jackets are available to borrow from both lodges.

Be aware of weather forecasts

Knowledge of the day's weather forecast is extremely important which is why every day the local weather forecast is displayed prominently in the Lodge. We strongly recommend that you check the forecast before going afloat.

Should the weather forecast predict the possibility of deteriorating weather, we will ask you for your mobile phone number in case we need to call the boats back in. If we recall the boats, return to the jetty immediately.

If you get caught in a storm

If the weather deteriorates without prior warning and you find yourself caught out in a storm, either try to return to a sheltered bay or come ashore on a sheltered bank.

When heading for shelter in a storm the helmsman should:

- put the red emergency engine stop cord around his wrist
- ensure the boats weight load is distributed evenly, too much weight at the stern or forward in the bow or on either side of the boat can cause swamping.
- distribute weight centrally in the boat, sit down, hold tight and try and cut into or run with the waves. Do not try to go broadside along the waves as stability can be reduced.
- please do not take risks. It is always better to leave the boat on a safe shore and call for assistance than take a chance on returning in very rough conditions.



Life jackets are available from Bristol Water. They must be worn and fastened correctly or they may fail to work effectively. The life jacket will normally inflate automatically in an emergency. If it fails to inflate you can manually inflate by pulling the red toggle.

BOARDING A BOAT



- Take care when boarding and stowing your gear. Hold on to the jetty hand rail as you get into the boat.
- Don't leave heavy tackle boxes hanging around your neck as you step in. These can swing around and pull you off balance into the water.
- If you have a boat partner let them get into the boat first and hand them the tackle or if you are on your own ask a member of staff to help you.
- When seated in the boat keep your fingers in-board especially when moored to the jetties. Fingers can become trapped between the rocking boats.
- Once all is secure and the boat is trimmed with crew sitting centrally and fishing kit balanced aboard you are ready to go. Once you have started the engine make sure it's running smoothly before untying the boat from the jetty.
- Don't forget there are starting instructions for the engine on the inside of the boat. If you are still not sure ask a member of staff for help.
- Do not take out the oars and leave them on the jetty to make more room in the boat. They are an important part of the safety equipment, especially if your engine breaks down or you go aground.

FURTHER SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Always wear head and eye protection while fly-fishing
- Look behind you before casting
- Keep rods and lines well clear of overhead power lines
- During thunderstorms stop fishing, lower your rod and leave the water immediately
- Take great care when wading. Be aware that there are deep holes and soft mud in places, and use a wading staff or long-handled landing net
- Do not wade any deeper than the top of your thighs
- Always be prepared to help anyone in difficulty
- Never stand on a boat seat while fishing
- Start engine before untying
- Always approach the jetty upwind (bow into the wind) and do not turn off the engine until you have secured the boat to the jetty
- In the event of a breakdown, row to another boat for help, or back to the jetty

IN AN EMERGENCY

In any emergency, if possible, attract attention by raising one oar or call
Woodford Lodge on
01275 332481
alternatively if you experience difficulties with this number call
0117 966 5881
We advise you put these numbers into the memory of your mobile phone before you set out.