



Felixstowe Sea Angling Society  
36 Manor Terrace, Felixstowe IP11 2EL  
www.fsas.org.uk

## **Felixstowe Sea Angling Society Boat Fishing Risk Assessment**

### **Actions**

**Prepare boat for sea:** Add correct fuel to Include enough spare and oil if required. Connect fuel tank to engine.

**Insert bung:** check battery for power: Engine should not be started without water supply: Load fishing tackle, clothing, lifejackets for all crew, food/drink, first aid kit, charts to cover appropriate area: flares, compass and any electronic devices;

A VHF radio is mandatory together with operators' licence. This can be a hand held or a fixed DSC unit. A hand held has shorter trans/rec range.

A mobile phone has a very limited signal and varies with atmospheric conditions.

(Chart plotters are a very accurate aid but always note course for home in case of failure.)

Always take clothes to cover all weather conditions Inc spares.

Good practise for **crewmember** to double-check all of the above is correct.

Prep and check trailer: connect trailer to hitch Inc safety breakaway link and lighting socket. (LAW) Check lighting board for fully working lights.

Check wheel rotation on trailer before entering road. Bearings /hubs wheel nuts and ceased brakes. Ensure prop bag is in place, (LAW) **Crewmember responsibility.**

Tow vessel to launch site.

**Not all car drivers/ licence holders have the right to tow a trailer. Check categories on licence.**

Match Steward and crews to confirm match limits.

Launch vessel if conditions are suitable.

**Crewmember** to ensure no persons is crossing to rear of trailer while reversing on road or slipway.

If visibility is low the match steward to declare if match time is delayed or cancelled. In poor vis boats should be given choice to leave in convoy.

**CAUTION:** on an edding tide at ferry the flow can sweep a vessel on or over the jetty in seconds.

**CAUTION:** slipway and jetty at Felixstowe ferry are very slippery from mud, weed and water also ice in winter months.

**CAUTION: Only lifejackets will correctly position a person on to their back when in the water. Floatation jackets are only aids.**

Secure vessel or crewmember to hold while tow vehicle is parked.

Start and run engine. Switch on any instruments as carried on board.

Log in details with coast watch. See append 1

Ensure all items on board are stowed in safe manner.

Proceed to sea following channel and observing any speed limits, which might apply.

Felixstowe ferry pilot produce a chart of entrance each year in April or May. These guidelines should be followed.

Depths in river deben channel are very changeable, especially after on shore winds. **Note:** bar can produce a swell on an otherwise calm day. Proceed to sea and anchor at chosen waypoint.

Always remain vigilant for small marker buoys on commercial crab pots, long lines and nets likely to foul propeller. When casting from boat inform other crewmembers. Always cast with weights outside of boat.

If any boat returns to launch site before designated time, match steward is to be informed.

At end of match contact other boats when underway and inform if you require any form of assistance.



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If a boat match is cancelled the match steward and competitors have the right to hold a beach match as a substitution if all agree. A beach risk assessment will need to be read and signed.

## HAZARDS

Manual handling, lifting: full 25 L fuel tanks weigh approx 20 kgs, which is max rec wt.

Cuts: trips/slips: strains: impact injuries, cars and trailers reversing. Hit by weights or hooks when casting, Boat prop caught in rope/boat coming to a sudden halt.

Cuts from bait cutting knife. Always sheath when not in use.

Skin and eye Contact with petrol when decanting.

Contact with loose objects: rough water, swells when crossing bar.  
East wind and conflicting tides.

Risk of loosing footing while launching / being Crushed between boat and jetty in a strong tide. **RISK TO LIFE**

Effects of weather extremes. Hot /cold /wet/sun

Risk of being caught in turn of rope and dragged overboard when paying out anchor warp. **RISK TO LIFE**  
All competitors to complete risk assessment form before start of match.

Any member who observes an action, which is deemed to be of danger to themselves or others, should inform the match steward. If necessary, it will be added after the next committee meeting.

The club compound and club hut is to be kept tidy.  
Compound Gates to be locked after use.

## Appendix 1

Coast watch log in details

Call up on channel 65 VHF (Felixstowe)

State name of vessel, main colour, length, number of persons on board, approx intended fishing area.

### History

Revision	Author	Date	Notes
Draft A.	M. Hudson	14/08/2019	Initial draft
Draft B	Phil Riches	02/03/2020	Document re-formatted
Issue 1	Phil Riches	28/03/2021	Appendix 1 VHF Channel updated from 85 to 65

### Approval

Approved by	Date	Notes
FSAS Committee	29/03/2021	Ready for distribution