



ORVIS SALTWATER EVENTS CHICHESTER HARBOUR & HAYLING ISLAND

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The following information is useful to know when setting out on any saltwater fly-fishing expedition, please read through this carefully ahead of the event to give you a good understanding of health and safety.

Many of the harbours and estuaries along the south coast are Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As a result, there are several nature reserves as well as military garrisons and private land which prevent either vehicle or foot access and sometimes both. Careful planning is essential to ensure you do not stray into restricted areas. Generally, where there is a foot or cycle path on the map, the place is open to the public but do look for any signs which may limit access. Also, see the map displayed in the registration area.

For the purposes of doubt, every angler will be classed as a recreational angler for the duration of the festival. As such they will be responsible for their own safety and conduct throughout. Each harbour authority has its own information and guidance for anglers, and everyone is encouraged to visit the websites to ensure they get the very latest help and advice.

Much of the coastline is very shallow, with many places fishable only for short periods on either side of high tide (HT). With huge stretches of sand, including quick-sand, and mud, wading can be a hazardous affair – there's a risk of getting stuck, cut off or swept away by fast-moving tides. We advise that you wade on firm ground such as shingle, grass or ground that you have tested. Even ground that is firm when dry can become much softer once covered by the tide so do not assume it will be safe. ***If in doubt do not wade.***

We also advise that you make someone who is not fishing with you, aware of where you are fishing and when you expect to finish. Please check in with that person once you have finished fishing for the day.

Given the time of year and the potential for weather conditions to deteriorate rapidly, chest waders are recommended for the whole area. This will ensure you remain warm and dry for extended periods. We advise keeping additional waterproofs and warm clothing nearby when wading.

We encourage you to fish in pairs. Not only will this help with safety, but vehicle sharing will aid with parking at the smaller car parks such as at Church Norton which has very limited capacity. If not fishing together, try to keep another angler in sight. Always carry a fully charged mobile telephone in a waterproof bag. Check for good signal strength before venturing out to remote marks.

It would be prudent to be aware of your location so that in the event of an emergency you can ***call 999*** and tell the Coastguard where you are. The organisers have no access to rescue vessels or vehicles, always ***call 999*** if you get into trouble.

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If you do get stuck or cut off, do not wait before calling the emergency services. Call them as soon as you realise you are in trouble; you can always stand them down if you manage to free yourself and make it to safety. We suggest downloading What3Words so you can easily communicate your location in an emergency.

Always wear eye protection. While life jackets can be cumbersome, they are life-savers so we advise wearing one, especially when fishing a new or potentially risky mark.

Other issues to consider:

- Check tide times/heights and weather conditions to decide the best times to fish and always think **safety first**.
- The direction of the wind is a crucial factor when deciding where to cast a fly. Long stretches of the coastline face due south or west and with the prevailing wind coming from the Southwest, identification of the best marks with alternatives will be essential; you may need two or more marks if you plan to fish for extended periods.
- It is very easy to get carried away especially when the fish are biting - pace yourself. Casting a fly rod can burn up to 200 calories per hour: Walking and wading even more. Take regular breaks, we suggest 5 minutes every hour and 15 minutes after 2 hours. This should include sitting down and taking on food and water. Regular rest breaks allow you to maintain your strength and fitness throughout.
- The entire fishing area is open to the public and is often frequented by holidaymakers, dog walkers, swimmers, kayakers, kite surfers et al. Do not expect to have footpaths, beaches or any mark to yourself. Be cautious when and where you cast in case someone is passing behind you or has laid out their picnic blanket right in your back-cast area. Bass and, to a lesser extent mullet, will swim very close to shore even if bathers are present so don't let people, dogs or boats put you off - just be careful and considerate of others.
- Some marks require a lengthy walk, factor that into your plans. For instance, the walk to the southernmost point of Thorney Island can take an hour each way. Cobnor Point is a 30 to 40-minute walk from the nearest car park. To prevent overheating and potential dehydration, consider walking in shorts and a T-shirt with your waders in a rucksack.
- Remember to take plenty of food and water with you.

Fishing Rules and Regulations

Places such as Chichester Harbour are Bass Nursery Areas (BNA) and are subject to the laws and regulations laid down by the following authorities.

- Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Sussex IFCA) for the shoreline in Sussex www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk
- Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA) for Hampshire www.southern-ifca.gov.uk

The Harbour Master has provided some updated guidance. Please review this before attending. [Recreational Disturbance information](#): mainly aimed at Paddlesport but will also apply to anglers on the shoreline.

Rules and regulations change annually so everyone must acquaint themselves with the regulations for 2023 before setting out on any fishing expedition. For instance, at the time of the festival, anglers will be able to take two bass per session providing they are 42 cm or longer but catch and release is encouraged. The take, if any, and size limitations for other species will be on the websites listed above.

Areas with Restricted Access

These areas will be marked in red on the map on display at festival – please review this on arrival.

This is not an exhaustive list so again do your own research and if in doubt avoid the area. You could try calling the harbour offices but as mentioned above, they are not open 24/7 and only for short periods at weekends.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy 01243 512301 (Harbour Patrol operating office hours during the weekend)

Langstone Harbour 023 9246 5011

Portsmouth Harbour 023 9229 7341

Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve 01243 641508 (ask to speak to the Warden)

Type	Name	Access Restrictions
AONB	Ellanore Point, Pilsey Island, Stakes Island	All are in Chichester Harbour and home to nesting birds and other wildlife so to be avoided
Restricted Military Area	Thorney Island	No vehicle access south of the Great Deep but there's a 7-mile footpath around the island with CCTV and buzzer-controlled security gate on both the east and west side. Full access to the whole coastline but no movement inland.
Private Land	Manhood Peninsula PO18	No foot access whatsoever from Itchenor ferry landing point, along the foreshore all the way to Fishbourne
Nature Reserve	Medbury near Selsey Bill	Fishing off the shingle bank to seaward allowed and while there are footpaths, no access off the paths into the reserve
Nature Reserve	Pagham Harbour	SSSI with seasonally restricted areas for ground nesting birds. Access into the reserve is generally allowed from any footpath but watch for signs and do not disturb wildlife

Please call Michael Rescorle 07753 303830 if you find other restricted areas which you feel should be added to this list.