

- (20) Offer to help in the trailer loading process.
- (21) Offer to help clean the boat & trailer.
- (22) If you caught more than the skipper, (which may well have been threw his efforts), offer to share part of your catch to him.
- (23) Offer to share expenses for launch fee, gas, oil, bait (if you did not buy it). Keep in mind that fuel expenses alone, depending on the boat & trip taken can be expensive.. For example, many typical high performance fishing boats can burn up to 20 gallons of fuel per hour when traveling. It is not impossible for a trip to the fishing area and back, along with a day of trolling can add up to \$100 or more for fuel alone. Ask the skipper his fuel consumption per hour & try to make a reasonable estimate yourself of costs then divide by the number of people on the boat, and offer your fair share. No one expects a guest to shoulder the entire cost of a trip, but custom and common sense call for all participants to chip in and share the trip expenses. Boaters expenses are not for fuel alone, as there are also expenses of maintaining the towing vehicle & fuel for it. Also boat insurance does not come cheap.

There is always maintenance to do on boats that are used on saltwater. Trailer lights, wheel bearings & brakes that are submerged in saltwater need to be continually looked at, maintained or replaced.

If you follow these general guidelines you probably will enjoy yourself a lot more, and you will convey a clear message that you appreciate the opportunity to have fished on someone else's boat. This will greatly increase your chances of getting another invitation and possibly strengthening your new friendship. On the other hand, some people's personalities are just not compatible, therefore it is the skipper who is calling the shots.

The boat owner/skipper also has some responsibilities:

- (1) Brief your guest on where you will be fishing beforehand so he can inform someone. Also inform the guest as to your boat make, size & color, boat name, boat call name & VHF or CB frequency you can normally be reached on
- (2) Be on time at the meeting place.
- (3) Have your gear & the boat ready the night before so that no time is wasted on the water.
- (4) Check weather conditions before departure time.
- (5) Verify the guests have proper licenses
- (6) Brief the guests on life vest location & installation, emergency procedures, bilge pump switch location, etc.
- (7) Brief the guest on starting the boat, basic functioning of some of the electronics, and some navigation in case you have health problems.
- (8) Ask the guest if he/she has any health or physical handicaps that might create a problem.
- (9) Advise the guest on how long you plan on remaining on the water under normal conditions.
- (10) If guest gets seasick, be considerate, & consider carrying some form of seasick medication on the boat.

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