



Regulations within the nature reserve Skånska Kattegatt, a Marine Protected Area

For the full list of regulations, please see the documents in Swedish or contact the County Administrative Board of Skåne.

The following regulations are those addressing public use, for example all vessels/watercrafts passing through the area. The legal foundation for these regulations is chapter 7, paragraph 30 in the Swedish Environmental Code (Miljöbalken).

In addition to other rules and regulations, the following are prohibited:

1. Drilling, dredging, excavating, hydraulic sediment flushing, extracting or other removal of material, filling material, dumping, detonating explosives, storing chemical substances in sediment or bedrock.
2. Anchoring, except in the case of emergency.
3. Erecting or placing any kind of construction or object. *Fishing in accordance to valid fishing regulations is exempted.*
4. At a speed exceeding 25 knots, operating either a commercial vessel shorter than 15 meters along the waterline or any motorized pleasure craft irrespective of size. *The Swedish Coast Guard are exempted.*
5. Operating a water scooter or similar watercraft¹. *The Swedish Coast Guard are exempted.*
6. Holding military exercises.
7. Holding a competition or event that could cause disturbances to the natural environment.
8. Conducting aquaculture activities, e.g. farming fish, mussels or macro algae, or harvesting natural vegetation.
9. Releasing species or populations not native to the area.
10. Hunting.
11. Gleaning, catching or collecting plants or animal. Fishing in accordance to valid fishing regulations is exempted.
12. Consciously disturbing marine mammals or seabirds by, for example, following individuals or groups, or maneuvering between pairs or groups of individuals.

Without a formal, written permit from the County Administrative Board of Skåne, it is prohibited to:

13. Conduct scientific or other surveys that can disturb wildlife, for example by collecting or catching organisms, or by using sonar or other sound generation or electromagnetic radiation.

There are exemptions, not listed here, for the Swedish Armed Forces.

Depending on the motives, an applicant may be granted an exemption from the regulations by the County Administrative Board of Skåne (Länsstyrelsen Skåne).

The main purpose with the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Skånska Kattgatt is to preserve biological diversity and natural ecological processes. Anthropogenic disturbances to species and the natural environment are to be minimal.

The MPA is an important spawning ground for cod and one of the key areas for harbour porpoises. The sea floor hosts the endangered habitat “Sea pens and burrowing megafauna”.

The area is administered by the County Administrative Board of Skåne. It is both a nature reserve and part of Natura 2000, the EU’s ecological network of protected areas.

¹ “Similar watercrafts” refers to those with a combustion engine propelled by a waterjet and for the use of one or several persons sitting, standing or on their knees on the craft rather than in it.