

Stranda Hamnevesen KF
PO Box 264

NO-6201 STRANDA
Norway

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Environmental challenges in the Geirangerfjord World Heritage Site

The Geirangerfjord is globally unique and was in July 2005 inscribed on the UNESCO List of Natural World Heritage Sites in recognition and confirmation of the importance of our local natural heritage. However, this carries certain obligations, and there has been much focus on the Geirangerfjord concerning a number of areas and challenges related to port-based activities.

The West Norwegian Fjords landscape is extremely vulnerable owing to its climate, and problems concerning a lack of regulations with regard to discharges and emissions, high sulphur content of fuel oil, and periodically heavy traffic.

The Stranda Hamnevesen as port authority has the responsibility, in co-operation with local players, customers and partners, to ensure that all traffic arrangements and environmental matters in the Geirangerfjord, are taken good care of.

Bearing in mind the environmental challenges the Geirangerfjord already have, Stranda Hamnevesen have decided and will limit the number of ships to call on the same day.

For 2008 Stranda Hamnevesen KF will introduce the following restrictions:

1. Total gross tonnage (GT) in the Geirangerfjord at any time; not to exceed GRT 150 000 – 200 000/approx. 5000 passengers, irrespective of the four anchorage capacity, inclusive shoreside mooring-points.
2. Ships using garbage/ waste burners on board, are requested to switch them off when entering the port area.
3. Tender-boats are requested to stop engines at ship's side and alongside jetty.

Stranda Hamnevesen looks forward to a good relationship, understanding and a shared focus on a clean environment in the future.

We have every confidence that we will be able to develop the destination to the benefit of all parties, through good communication and co-operation at any time.

Restrictions are the same for Geiranger and Hellesylt.

Yours faithfully
Stranda Hamnevesen KF

Rita Berstad Maraak
Port Director