

Skipper's insurance options

Found on the market...

We all try to avoid problems, but...



Sailboat Hits the Yacht Maltese Falcon by Peter Lyons/Lyon Imaging for YachtPals.com



Disclaimer

- I am not an insurance professional
- I am not a lawyer
- What I present here is my personal opinion based on the what I read in various insurance documents (leaflets, application forms and policies)
- I have never made any claim based on any marine insurance (and I hope not to)
- It is very likely that the view of the insurer may differ from my view
- When I read insurance documents, I have many doubts myself

Before making an insurance choice, read carefully the insurance policy and clarify all the points.

If you have any doubts after reading the documents, get professional advice!

Some scenarios

1. You are responsible for a crash with another yacht and it turns out that your boat does not have a valid 3-rd party insurance (RC)
 - Or the loss exceeds the amount insured
2. You hit a rock and your boat sinks
 - What if the boat did not have casco insurance?
 - What if the rescue operation took several days and involved aircraft ?
3. One of your crew members dies in an accident and the insurer of their bank loan turns against you
4. You arrive at the charter base and the company fails to deliver the yacht

Assortment of bad luck

- Skipper's liability
 - Crew members turn against the skipper or against themselves
- Damage to chartered vessel due to gross negligence
- Yacht arrest
- Legal aid
- Loss of charter
- Damage claimed against charter deposit
- The yacht is not delivered by the charter base
- Accident
 - Disability, death of crew member, rescue and recovery
- Other:
 - Health problems
 - Travel cancellation

Yacht-Pool

<http://www.yacht-pool.com/>

- Skipper's Liability Insurance
 - 5 MEUR lump-sum personal injury/property damage – premium 92 EUR for sailing yacht
 - But they make it 138 CHF in Switzerland!
- Skipper's Accident Insurance
 - 155kEUR Disability, 60 kEUR Rescue 77kEUR Death – premium 40 EUR
 - For skipper and crew, but on request can be limited to skipper only
- Charter Fidelity-Bond Insurance
 - Per year – premium 292 EUR for deposits up to 3050 EUR
- Charter Consequential-Damage Insurance
 - Sailing yachts up to 43 feet – premium 115 EUR per year

EIS

<http://germany.eis-insurance.com/4/yachtinsurance/forms-and-conditions/antragsformulare.html>

- Extended skipper third-party liability
 - Coverage: 2MEUR for damage to persons and property
 - Premium: 70 EUR for yachts up to 10m, 95 EUR for yachts > 10m
 - Max 6 weeks per insurance year
 - No coverage for yachts with more than 120m of sail area
 - No coverage for charter cruises in the USA and Canadian territorial waters
 - They will not sell this insurance to a Polish citizen living in Switzerland
- Deposit insurance for chartered yachts
 - 6.2% for deposits above 2200 EUR, 7.2% for deposits over 2200 EUR – per charter
 - Does not cover gel-coat scratches, damage to the engine or losing things overboard
- Charter Price Contingency Insurance
 - 2.1% of the charter price

Pantaenius

<http://www.pantaenius.de/en/insurance/solution-for/skipper.html>

- Skipper Third Party Liability
 - Coverage: 6 MEUR combined single limit for personal injury and/or property damage
 - Premium: EUR 75 for yachts up to 17m of length
 - For skippers of chartered yachts, not owned by the skipper
 - Does not work if the insured was acting as skipper in any capacity from which he derived a commercial benefit

Rough comparison

*) GN = Gross Negligence proven in court

		Yacht Pool				EIS			Pantaenius
		Skipper's liability	Skipper's accident	Fidelity-bond	Conse-quential damage	Extended Third Party Liability	Deposit	Price Contingency	Skipper Third Party Liability
Skipper's liability	Crew members against skipper	Yes				Yes			Yes if > EUR 300
	Crew members among them	Yes				Yes			No
	Damage to chartered vessel	Yes, if GN*)				Yes, if GN*)			No, unless GN*)
	Yacht arrest					50 kEUR			100 kEUR
	Legal aid	I think so				I think so			Yes
	Loss of charter	No			Yes	20 kEUR			20 kEUR
Charter deposit				292 EUR per year			up to 7.2%		
Price contingency								2.10%	
Accident	Disability		155 kEUR						
	Death of crew member		77 kEUR						
	Rescue and recovery		60 kEUR						

Recommendations

- Make sure that your chartered yacht has a valid insurance policy
 - Does it include damage to the yacht itself (casco), or only 3-party risks (RC)?
 - Make sure that it is clearly stated in your charter contract. If it is not, ask to see the policy.
- If you are planning to insure the deposit, check what the charter base's can offer
 - Sometimes charter base will not take any deposit if you buy the deposit insurance through them
 - Read the policy – especially the exclusion list!
- Consider getting a Third Party Liability insurance for skippers
 - Again – read the policy!
 - Navigate

Be aware of the risks

Navigate safely to avoid them

I wish you weeks and weeks
of uncomplicated plain sailing

