Bytorsken is a two day long cod fishing contest in the heart of Ålesund. It gives locals and visitors an unique opportunity to experience the tradition of fishing in Borgundfjorden. The fishing in the Borgundfjord layed the foundation for people settling in Ålesund town, and connects the town and sea. Bytorsken happens March 15th-16th, and can be visited at Joachim H. Rønnebergs plass.

Fishing competition

The fishing competition is open to everyone, whether you are a sport fisher, hobby fisher, amaetur or just curious about fishing in general. The competition is separated into classes by age: Children 0-12, junior 13-18 and adults 18+.

The fishing contest is open Friday March 15th 17-22 and Saturday 06-15. On Saturday at 15.30 am there will be a firework after the competition. You may fish for as many hours as you want in the set competition time. The fish must be weighed at the festival area (you can do this at all times while the competition is on). The weighing will be stopped Friday at 23 and Saturday at 16.

The main prize will go to the person with the heaviest cod fish, no matter the competing class. Then there will be awards for 2nd – 10th place for both junior and adult in separate classes. All children under the age of 12 will receive a prize.

Ålesund harbour offers a free spot by the harbours at Brosundet and Rådhusbrygga.

"Gulltorsken" - "The Golden Cod"

Everyone who competes in the contest is also in the draw for "The Golden Cod". To win this 60.000 NOK money prize you have to hit the exact announced weight when the competition is over. The weight will be randomly drawn (weight incl. two desimals) and announced after the competition is over (ca. 15.30 on Saturday). The weight will be picked from an average weight of fish in the Borgundfjord, no less than 8 kg. The 60.000 NOK money prize is delivered by Jangaard Export AS and Fisketorget Delikatesse AS, and if no one wins it it will be moved on to next year's competition.

Due to Norwegian security systems, you have to own a Norwegian bank account to participate to win "The Golden Cod".

Fishing rules

- You can only fish with poles or lines (no machines!). The cod has to be emptied of blood before it's weighed.
- You are only aloud to fish at city grounds / Borgundfjorden, from boat or land.
- Ref. marine laws: Rule 44. Responsibility between vessels: Leisure vessels and open boats that are propelled by oars, sails or machinery must, as best they can, keep out of the way of larger vessels, ferries and other commercial traffic, when passing narrow sea, a heavily trafficked area or a harbor area.
- Remember to use a life jacket.

Find info about hotel offers and fishing boat trips here:

https://www.sentrumsforening.no/bytorsken-hotellovernatting-fisketurer