

GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM FISHING

Date Updated	18/02/15	Assessed by:	JML	Activity	Fishing	
Location	Entire Association Fishery				Ref No.	2
Description of activity: Fishing on rivers and lakes						
<p>What are the hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Drowning 2) Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises from Hydro plant generation (Drowning) 3) Electrocutation from overhead power cables, electric fences 4) Injury resulting from use of knives 5) Negotiating styles and bridges 6) Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground 7) Eye injury from hooks 8) Vehicles (slippery ground overloading) 9) Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk) 10) Weil's disease 11) Boats and waterborne equipment 12) Fishing alone in remote areas 13) Livestock 14) Lyme disease 15) Poionous plants (Water Hemlock) 						
<p>Who might be affected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All anglers 2) Members of the general public 3) Livestock 						
<p>What controls are in place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Copies of Health and Safety information is available on request from the Secretary and on the Association's web pages 2) Regular checks on stability of styles & crossing points and bridges 3) Association equipment checked regularly for safety 4) Suitable personal protective equipment / clothing to be worn for all activities (individual responsibility). 						
<p>What more needs to be done to reduce risk:</p> <p>New gates and styles are being erected during the period 2010 - 2011 Access to some parts of the river are also being improved (Trotters, Ash, Irmytage, Millpool, Gorge, Gordons, bridge to Tanyrallt, bridge and pathway at Whirlpool) during the period 2010 - 2011. Above improvements completed 2013. Additional styles are being erected along the Tanyrallt stretch 2015.</p>						

RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY DEFINITIONS

SEVERITY

High 3

Hazard capable of resulting in death, severe injury, disability or serious illness and is a life/career-threatening outcome or has a major damage or loss capability.

Medium 2

Hazard capable of resulting in moderate personal injury / illness or damage and loss capability. In some cases 'Medium' level severity should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

Hazard resulting in minor injury requiring first aid treatment/minor lost time only or slight damage. A minor loss event to the individual or the club.

LIKELIHOOD

High 3

Likely to occur in the very short term

Medium 2

Likely to occur in time.

In some cases 'Medium' level likelihood should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

May occur in time, however low expectation of occurrence.

The Risk Assessment document will be completed and signed by the Health & Safety Committee members, key actions will be conveyed (where appropriate read and understood) to all participating so that they know and understand what is expected of them.

SEE NEXT PAGE

TABLE 1
RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY OF HAZARDS
 (See Also notes 'Reducing the Hazards' on following page)

No.	Hazards	Severity*	Likelihood*
1	Drowning	3	1
2	Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises from Hydro plant generation (Drowning)	2-3	1
3	Electrocution (from overhead power cables, electric fences or power tools near water)	3	1-2
4	Injury resulting from use of knives	1-2	1
5	Injury whilst negotiating styles and bridges	1-2	2
6	Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground	1-2	2
7	Eye injury from hooks	1-2	1
8	Vehicles (slippery sloping frozen ground)	3	1
9	Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk)	2	1
10	Weil's disease	2	1
11	Boats and waterborne equipment	1	1
12	Fishing alone in remote areas (and at night)	2-3	1
13	Livestock	2-3	1
14	Lyme disease	1-2	1
15	Poisonous plants (Water Hemlock)	2-3	1

*The Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of course depends on the incident. Likelihood ratings are based on the relevant precautions having been taken and common sense attitude to the tasks in hand

NOTES to Table 1 Reducing the Hazards

Most of the 'risks and hazards' outlined above are similar to those encountered by members of the general public when they are following a designated footpath alongside any river or lake anywhere in the UK, and a certain amount of common sense must be assumed with regard to any of the hazards outlined above (e.g. slipping on wet ground into the river / lake, injury negotiating styles and bridges, cuts from rusty metal objects and danger from livestock).

Having said that, there are additional issues which must be considered as follows:

Hazards 1 & 2. When the river is in flood or when there is a sudden rapid rises in water level from the Rheidol Hydro plant, there is obviously an additional danger from drowning, and particular care needs to be taken most especially if wading.

Hazard 3 There are a number of places especially on the river where high voltage power cables either traverse or run close by the river bank and extreme care needs to be taken when fishing, that neither rods nor lines come into contact with or near these cables. Remember you don't necessarily have to touch the cables to be electrocuted as the power from high voltage lines can arc some distance from the line attempting to establish an earth.

Hazard 4 The use of a knife can result in anything from a minor cut to a life threatening injury if not used carefully, so be extra cautious (also Hazard 12).

Hazards 5 & 6 Traversing styles and bridges, wet, frozen or sloping ground can be hazardous and requires extra care whilst carrying fishing gear etc.,.

Hazard 7 Casting and retrieving fishing line poses a danger to the eyes. Suitable eye protection should be worn

Hazard 8 Special care should be taken when driving a vehicle close to any body of water as there is a danger of the vehicle slipping uncontrollably on wet, sloping or frozen ground. It is advised to park a safe distance away, and adjacent to the water rather than pointing directly towards it.

Hazards 9 & 10 Cuts or other penetrative injury could lead to infection (especially by tetanus and Weil's disease) and should preferably be examined by a medical professional. Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters and thoroughly disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside. Always wash your hands in clean tap water (or use a sterilising solution) and cover food carefully in a clean wrapper before eating. Do not put your hands in your mouth after immersing in river or lake water. Immunisation to Tetanus is also recommended.

Hazard 11 Boat users should be vigilant at all times and should always wear a life or floatation jacket (see also Boat Rules).

Hazard 12 Lone fishing exacerbates most of the dangers outlined in the "What are the hazards" section above. Carrying a mobile phone can help in some circumstances but bear in mind that reception is poor in many places. If you are going to fish alone it is wise to implement a buddy system (telling someone when and where you are going fishing and when you will return) even where a task is deemed low risk.

Hazard 13 Livestock can be very unpredictable and are not to be trusted. An animal which seems to be docile can change its demeanour very quickly to become aggressive, most

ABERYSTWYTH ANGLING ASSOCIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT especially if spooked, or if they have young calves. Its also worth remembering that if cattle are running towards you they may not be able to turn or stop, especially if the ground is sloping, wet or frozen.

Using common sense and implementing the suggestions as outlined, the Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of course depends on the incident.

Hazard 14

Lyme's disease (Lyme borreliosis) is transmitted by tick bites. Keep clothing (especially trouser bottoms) tight to skin to prevent tick access. Ticks can be safely removed with specialised forceps but care must be taken to ensure that the mouthparts of the tick are removed and that the tick is not squashed during the process. **If you are not certain of how to do this safely, contact your health care specialists.** If you develop a reddening patch where a tick has been, you should contact your health care specialists urgently.

Hazard 15

Water hemlock is fairly common along the riverbank and can be found in other wet places e.g. lakes. Care should be taken when handling fishing line lures etc., that any plant residue is not transferred to the mouth. Hands should always be properly cleansed before handling sandwiches or other foodstuffs. If you feel unwell after a fishing trip especially if you begin vomiting, contact a health professional urgently and explain the possibility (remote though it is) of hemlock poisoning.

COPYRIGHT