

Outdoor Education Standard Operating Procedures



Fishing

Standard Operating Procedures: Fishing

Definition and Scope of Activities

The activity involves the use of equipment around different water venues.

Entry to each location is by foot.

Locations vary from Stable, level areas to specially created platforms.

Seasonal Constraints

Instructors to dynamically risk assess each location in winter time for suitability.

Location Constraints

There are no location limitations, common places that area used include: Clatto Park; Riverside Drive and Broughty ferry. Some venues may require fishing permits and these should be obtained where appropriate.

Tuition Ratios

The tuition ratios are: 1 instructor to 6 participants. However, some venues and sites may require reduced supervision ratios where environmental constraints do not suit larger groups e.g. fishing from areas where the tide may affect access, or fishing from rocky coastal outcrops.

Participants with additional support needs should require additional supervision or a reduced participant: instructor ratio.

A second adult should be present at the group location with participants under 18 years of age.

Tuition Leader Qualifications

Any leader delivering fishing activities should hold a valid 2 day first aid certificate.

Equipment - Participants

Participants must be adequately equipped for the weather and terrain for the location used

All participants may require access to windproof / waterproof / protective clothing.

Equipment – Group Safety

In addition, the Group may require easy location access to:

- First aid supplies/ Emergency Shelter
- Mobile phone
- Boots/ Wellies
- Throwline

 CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE		RISK ASSESSMENT						ASSESSMENT REF NO: Fishing				
Activity: Fishing		Location: Various						Assessor: FO, DH				
Hazard	Who might be harmed?			Existing Controls What makes the hazard less risky? What makes these controls effective?	Risk			Further actions Avoid Control at source Take advantage of technology Protect all Make what you have more effective	Target date dd-mm-yy	Responsibility	Completion date	New Residual Risk Score
	Public	Client	Ladder		Probability	Severity	Rating					
Loss of group control	x	x	x	The site chosen is appropriate for the age and ability of the group.	1	4	4	None				
Falling into water - particularly near deep, or fast moving water		x	x	The group leader ensures that: Group members fish only where there are stable/specially created platforms, flat stable areas at reservoirs/ lakes/ tidal areas can also be used. Group members kept away from hazardous sites (eg. steep, slippery slopes where they can fall into deep water) also briefed and encouraged to sit down whilst fishing. Throwline available in the event of rescue from the water where in situ life rings are not present. Buoyancy aids are available for any participants who wish to wear one.	2	3	6	None				

Injury sustained by equipment	x	x	x	Group leader to brief group on: How to cast and land fish,(adult helper there to help land fish if required) Cut the line if hooks cannot be extricated from branches or weeds at the bottom of the water. Space between each participant whilst fishing	2	3	6	None				
Handling fishing equipment Sharp equipment (Hooks/Scissors) Injuries/Infection/Illness		x	x	Group members briefed regarding dangers of hooks and correct way of handling them/ also not to stand behind another group member whilst they are casting. Also, good brief on how to cast correctly and how to unhook fish. Any cuts or wounds are washed and treated correctly.	2	3	6	None				
Handling Fish (Weaver fish)		x	x	Members are briefed on how to handle each fish correctly and safely.	2	2	4	None				
Water quality		x	x	Local advice is obtained regarding water quality. Fishing not permitted in high risk areas Group members briefed to cover up any sores/cuts etc and encouraged to wash hands before handling food. Entering the water is discouraged.	1	2	2	None				

Further actions approved by: Derek Napier

Signature: D Napier

Date: 9th April, 2026

Urgency of Action = (20+ *Very High*) (16-20 *High*) (9-15 *Moderate*) (4-8 *Low*) (1-3 *Very Low*)

Severity = 1. Damage 2. Minor Injury 3. +3 Days/Hospitalised 4. Major Injury/Permanent Disability 5. Fatality

Probability = 1. Very Unlikely 2. Unlikely 3. Fairly Likely 4. Likely 5. Very Likely

Review Date: April 2027

Ancrum Outdoor Centre, 10 Ancrum Road, Dundee DD2 2HZ Tel: 01382 435911
Web: www.ancrum.com Email: ancrum.centre@leisureandculturaldundee.com

