

Generic Risk Assessment (2 March 2016)

A reminder of PFAC Rule 17

- 17 Members and their guests must:
- Respect the wishes of the landowners whilst on their property.
 - Only approach or leave the river by pre-agreed routes of access.
 - Remain within the river or within the un-cropped boundaries of the banks.
 - Respect any necessary temporary limitations of access.
 - Not alarm, or interfere with, the well-being of any stock or wildlife encountered.
 - Not bring dogs or non-fishing friends onto the land.
 - Not use the landowner's property for a picnic site or light any fires.
 - Not leave the river in close proximity to the landowner's homes after dark.
 - Not cast in proximity to overhead electricity cables, poles and pylons.
 - Be liable for their own health and safety and, as far as possible, that of others.
 - Take appropriate action to minimize the possibility of introduction of any animal or plant life from other waters by disinfecting waders and nets prior to fishing.
 - Disinfect waders and nets prior to fishing Beats 4 to 12 (the upper river).

Guide to risks and possible mitigation measures

All Members and Guests are responsible for their own safety. The following is a guide to risks which may be encountered, and possible mitigation measures. However, Members and Guests must carry out their own assessment of risks when fishing or working on the river.

	Item	Risks	Possible mitigation
1	Wading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater obstructions – slips, trips, falls • Water depth and current • Bottom conditions – silt, sharp or slippery rocks • Underwater ledges • Changing river levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wading staff to assist stability and check depth • Appropriate footwear • Buoyancy aid • Awareness and vigilance • Check weather forecast and flood warnings
2	Access to river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic • Paths – slips, trips, falls • Banks – undercut, slippery, unstable • Steep paths and banks • Snow and ice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and vigilance • Appropriate footwear • Local knowledge – ask others
3	Disease and infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via open wounds, mouth, nose, eyes • Contaminated water, rat urine • Bites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective clothing • Waterproof plasters on wounds • Wash hands after contact with water • Examine for bites and ticks • Seek medical advice for any symptoms

4	Power lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocutation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep self and kit away from power lines • Do not cast near power lines
5	Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat, sun • Wet, cold • Snow • Lightning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weather forecast and flood warnings • Appropriate clothing • Sun screen and liquids • In thunderstorms get out of river and stay away from trees.
6	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock • Barbed wire • Electric fences • Trees • Other debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and vigilance • Do not stray from pre-agreed access routes • Follow the Countryside Code • Beware of falling branches
7	Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casting • Threatening behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and vigilance • Communication • Leave for personal safety
8	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread of infection or alien species • Distress to fish and other wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and knowledge • Disinfection • Care to minimise distress and disturbance (e.g. to bird nesting sites)
9	Personal well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capability • Lack of fitness • Existing injuries / ailments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and vigilance • High degree of personal responsibility • If existing injuries / ailments are exacerbated seek medical advice quickly
10	Casting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooking others • Hooking self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and vigilance • Wear glasses or eye protection • Wear hat with brim to protect neck, ears and face