

Assessor Colin Hind 07/02/2024		Reviewed Colin Hind Date 07/02/2024		Haltwhistle & District Angling Association			Risk Assessments			
<p>As a routine, members of H&DAA Anglers should inform someone of their intention to fish, the stretch of river/lake that they intend to visit and the expected duration of the visit. Use of a mobile phone to inform of any changes to this is recommended but be aware that network coverage may be patchy. All members should familiarise themselves with the Association Rules before accessing the water.</p>										
Activity	Hazard	Hazard effect	Persons at Risk	Risk Evaluation			Control Measures/Recommendations to be implemented	Risk following Controls		
				High	Medium	Low		High	Medium	Low
	Anglers being unfamiliar with the fishing beats of H&DAA	Potential injury or risk of drowning	M, JM, G	x			<p>All members are offered the opportunity to attend guided tours of the fishing beats early in the season. If this is not convenient individual visits can be arranged via the Secretary.</p> <p>The purpose of these visits is to highlight the known hazards appertaining to each beat, the measures that individuals need to put in place to reduce any risk and safe practices recommended by H&DAA. This will include safe parking, safe access to the fishing and methods used to safely enjoy the water.</p> <p>If changes occur after flooding events they will be reported within the Association's regular newsletters. Updates are also available via the Secretary.</p> <p>Members inviting guests must notify the Secretary and receive approval prior to fishing. Members are responsible for ensuring the safety of their guest.</p>			x
Accessing the fishing	Vehicle movements	Injury or death	M, P, JM, G, E	x			<p>Speed limited to be adhered to. Park sensibly. Pay due care and attention at all times. Be courteous to others when entering and leaving the site.</p> <p>Give way to pedestrians at all times.</p>			x
Angling	Sunlight	Sunburn/ sunstroke	M, JM, G	x			<p>Wear sun cream sunblock and cover body even when cloudy. Wear a hat and sunglasses to protect eyes from glare.</p>			x
	Insects	Bites and stings	M, JM, G	x			<p>Be aware of and keep clear of wasp, hornet nests and beehives. Wear insect repellent to deter biting insects.</p> <p>Make other members aware if you have any allergies to bites or stings.</p>			x
	Venomous snakes	Bites and poisoning	M, JM, G	x			<p>Venomous snakes could be present on our upland stretches of water. Avoid any snakes and avoid any burrow, hole in stone walls and/or river banks.</p>			x
	Ticks	Potential illness (Lyme's disease)	M, JM, G	x			<p>Cover up areas of bare flesh and check body for ticks immediately after returning from the field. Remove any ticks and swab the area with disinfectant. If any unexplained fever or rash develops at the bite site Consult your doctor as soon as possible.</p>			x

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	Pathogens in or near the river	Contracting Weil's disease or infectious hepatitis Bacterial infection carried in the urine of rats which contaminates water and banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.	M, JM, G	x			Precautions to be observed are: Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside Wash hands or cover food with wrapper before you eat and do not put hands or equipment in your mouth after immersing in water Do not touch dead animals especially rats and do not leave food or rubbish on the bank side Disinfect /wash your hands as soon as possible after fishing and before eating, drinking or smoking. Report all instances of unexplained fever to your doctor. The early symptoms are similar to flu and normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Further information is available via the website http://www.leptospirosis.org/			x
	Contamination from having touched bait, fish and river/lake water	Infection/food poisoning etc.	M, JM,G	x			Hands must be washed before eating, drinking, and smoking and at regular intervals throughout the day and at the end of the day. Cuts and wounds must be cleaned and covered immediately.			x
	Toxins from vegetation (Giant Hogweed)	The sap of giant hogweed combined with sunlight causes phytophotdermatitis resulting in blisters and serious damage to eyes	M, JM, G	x			Members should familiarise themselves with this plant and avoid contact with it. If any plants are found the committee should be informed and the plant will be dealt with by suitably experienced personnel.			x
	Blue green algae	Poisoning	M, JM	x			Algal blooms occur in stillwaters during hot and sunny weather. Avoid water that has a bright blue-green algal scum. If contact is made with such scum, wash it off immediately. Do not drink the water.			x
	Poor or extreme weather conditions	Hypothermia	M, JM	x			Take appropriate warm outdoor clothing, waterproofs and spare clothes, food and a warm drink. Use a mobile phone to contact			x
	Poor or extreme weather conditions (wind)	Injury or death	M, JM	x			Be aware of falling trees and braches during storm events. High winds can result in loss of balance and falling into water			

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	Attack by farm animals	Potential injury or death	M, JM, G	x			Avoid fields with cows and young calves, bulls, rams and farm dogs.			x
	Slips, trips and falls on slippery, unstable and uneven ground	Potential injury or risk of drowning	M, JM, G	x			Use recognised paths to the fishing, Plan the route, watch footing and wear suitable footwear. During the summer bankside vegetation will grow and become a trip hazard. The vegetation in most cases will be allowed to grow to provide a healthy natural environment for insects and cover for fish. Be aware of this and either avoid or be extremely careful with your footing. Members choosing to fish at difficult points should be aware of their own ability and have means of self-rescue and buoyancy aids if they get into difficulty.			x
	Falling into water	Drowning/getting wet /hypothermia	M, JM, G	x			Do not enter the water if flows are very high. Be aware of slippery rocks, uneven river bed and loose gravel. Wear suitable waterproof clothing; use a wading staff and a life preserver/buoyancy aid. Be aware of changing weather conditions in the upper reaches of the river as flooding can change the river flows very quickly. Information on level can be found on the EA website. Be careful and watch your footing both in the water and on the riverbanks where there may be undercut banks and steep drop-offs. Spare clothing may save a cold journey home. Junior members under 16years must be accompanied by an adult when fishing.			x
										x
	Electrocution	Severe burns or Death	M, JM, G	x			Be aware of overhead cables/wires near/crossing the river and do not fish in their proximity. Do not walk with rods held vertically as it is not necessary to touch live wires - electricity can arc across to a conductor (carbon fibre fly rod). Do not fish during thunderstorms.			x

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	Casting	Cuts and abrasions and penetrating wounds	M, P, JM, G	x			Be aware fishing hooks are sharp and lines can cut deep. Casting lead weights/spinners projects hard objects at high velocity. Keep well clear of others that are casting. If you need to approach others that are casting make them aware of your presence as you approach. Always wear eye protection. Be aware that spinners caught on trees or vegetation on the opposite bank and pulled bank under tension can cause serious injury.			x
	Handling/setting up tackle	Cuts and abrasions and penetrating wounds	M, JM, G		x		Be aware fishing hooks are sharp and lines can cut deep. Cover all wounds with waterproof plasters and wash/disinfect all new cuts before covering with a waterproof plaster.			x
	Canoes, logs, floating items	Striking angler wading. Drowning/getting wet /hypothermia		x			When wading wear suitable waterproof clothing, use a wading staff and a life preserver. Be aware of other river users (canoes) who may be unable to avoid a collision with a wading angler.			x
	Personal medical conditions	Physical weakness endangering yourself and others	M, JM, G	x			It is a member's duty of care to advise others of medical conditions. Be sure to advise others of what to look out for and what to do Carry medication appropriate to your condition.			x
	Invasive species including Red Clawed Crayfish	Hastening the spread of Invasive species throughout the catchment thus reducing the health of the river and putting native species at risk	E	x			The Committee will take advice from the EA and TRT as to how best to reduce the spread of invasive species. Check your gear after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site. Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to nets, waders, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible. Dry everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp condition			x
Bankside maintenance	Injury from equipment	Potential injury, sprains, strains or death	M, JM, G	x			If vehicles are involved in the works all pedestrian work areas to be designated away from vehicular movements. Volunteers/Members to only use tools equipment that they are competent/trained to use.			x

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							Equipment used is to be fit for purpose. (this will generally be provided by the volunteers). A member appointed by the committee will oversee/supervise the works. Members must not take it upon themselves to carry out works. If a problem is identified please report it to the Committee.			
Track maintenance	Injury from equipment	Potential injury, sprains, strains or death	M, JM, G	x			If vehicles are involved in the works all pedestrian work areas to be designated away from vehicular movements. Volunteers/Members to only use tools equipment that they are competent/trained to use. Equipment used is to be fit for purpose. (This will be provided by the volunteers). A member appointed by the committee will oversee/supervise the works.			x
										x
<p>JUNIOR MEMBERS The hazards and risks outlined above are all applicable to Junior Members. The added risks are the lack of experience, lack of judgement the lack of strength in some cases and the excessive enthusiasm that may be shown again in some cases.</p>										

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Angling	All of the above	Injury or death	JM	x			All Junior Members under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult whilst fishing or visiting the Associations fishing. Junior members and their parents/carers should familiarise themselves with the Association Rules and guidelines before accessing the water. It is also recommended that Junior members wear a buoyancy aid whilst fishing.			x
<p>If any situation arises that has not been described above and assessed as part of this risk assessment, the committee must be informed and a formal assessment will be carried out</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Risk Management information and records are available from the club secretary on request.</p> <p>Persons fishing the club waters should make themselves aware of the club rules and risk management and health and safety rules before commencement of fishing. Members are advised to download the OS locate app in order to provide the emergency services with an accurate grid reference and the St. John's Ambulance First Aid App as an aid to emergency First Aid. It is advised that all members carry their personal First Aid Kit to enable small injuries to be treated at the fishery.</p>										
<p>In case of emergency please contact</p> <p>Colin (Hon Sec) H&DAA tel : 07850 790630 Ridley Clayburn (Chairman) H&DAA tel : 07475 809122 David Stobbart (Treasurer) H&DAA tel : 07719 329519</p>						<p>Emergency Number 999</p> <p>Hexham General Hospital Corbridge Rd, Hexham NE46 1QJ tel: 0844 811 8111</p>				

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Members with Additional Needs that Require Assistance (eg Visually or physically impaired)												
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Angling Less able members that require assistance whilst accessing and enjoying the fishing	All hazards listed in pages 1-7 of the H&DAA Risk Assessments	Potential injury or death	M,P,JM,G	×			<p>Less able members must be closely accompanied at all times by their guest or another member of the Association (their Aide).</p> <p>The Aide must be able to address the needs of the member being assisted.</p> <p>The Aide must make themselves aware of H&DAA H&S documents and will comply with the guidelines as outlined in the H&DAA, 'Health & Safety Risk Assessment'.</p> <p>This Aide must be familiar with the H&DAA Risk Assessment, the hazards identified and the control measures that need to be implemented to minimise any risk.</p>				×	
Any incidents involving members with additional needs <u>must</u> be reported to the Committee in order to continually build on and improve H&DAA's safety policy.												
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