

West Bay Sea Angling Club

Safety and Risk Assessment Statement

Shore Fishing:

General:

- Casting: to avoid line breakage make sure a shock leader is used at all times; at least 10 lb breaking strain for each ounce used. Members using more powerful rods and casting techniques should consider using heavier shock leaders.
- Always check before casting to ensure area is clear of other anglers and members of the public whether on shore, swimming or aboard water craft.
- Please note casting restrictions at certain venues i.e. no overhead casting at West Bay pier and harbour, no feathering at Stone Pier, Weymouth.
- Always check weather and tide conditions before fishing and take adequate clothing; the use of buoyancy aids i.e. flotation suits is advised especially in adverse conditions.
- If conditions deteriorate beyond safe limits fishing should be abandoned; no fish is worth an angler's life.
- Anglers fishing alone should inform a trusted third party as to the venue where they intend to fish and expected time of return.
- Litter: danger to wildlife, domestic animals and members of the public. Members must ensure that their area is clear of litter, bait and tackle even if it does not belong to themselves before leaving the venue.

Venues:

- Chesil Beach; beware steep shelving beach, ground swell and rogue waves. Keep yourself and equipment well back from the last tide mark and stay aware of sea conditions, especially at night.
- Cliff venues i.e. Charmouth, Seatown, West Bay and Burton; beware of falling rocks, landslides, mudslides etc. Do not stand directly under cliffs and check tides and conditions so that you are not forced into that position. Insure that there is no chance of being cut off by the tide; weather conditions may cause higher than expected levels. Restrictions on access must always be obeyed and all warning signs duly noted.
- Rock venues i.e. Portland, Kimmeridge; especially dangerous, risk of injury due to falls and risk of drowning. Wear sturdy footwear, beware of slippery rocks and rogue waves. Use of buoyancy aids highly recommended and preferably do not fish alone.
- Piers, Promenades and Breakwaters i.e. West Bay, Lyme Regis; risk of drowning, beware slippery surfaces and rogue waves. Buoyancy aids advisable especially for junior members.
- Estuaries i.e. Poole, Exmouth; beware of becoming stuck in mud, especially while bait digging.

Competitions:

- If in doubt due to weather conditions, always check with the match steward that the competition is going ahead.
- Any angler arriving late/leaving early must inform the match steward or committee member before fishing/departing. If any entrant is unaccounted for and cannot be contacted the emergency services will be informed.
- Andy Neal Rovers: Members must choose their venues carefully taking into account sea/weather conditions and assess the safety of chosen venue before fishing. Any member not returning to the weigh in should inform another competitor or steward before returning home (see safety rules in handbook).

Boat Fishing:

General:

- All members should be fully competent in handling their craft and have the appropriate insurance cover.
- Boats should be in a sea-worthy condition and a general check be made before leaving the harbour.
- All boats should carry the appropriate safety equipment and be in a serviceable condition. It is recommended that boat users carry VHF equipment.
- Spare fuel and engine parts should be carried and any auxiliary engines be checked regularly.
- Weather conditions should be checked before sailing and it is advisable to wear a buoyancy aid at all times. A trusted third party should be informed as to where you are fishing and at what time you intend to return.

Competitions:

- Ensure that the forecast weather conditions are suitable for your size of craft and check with the match steward that the competition is going ahead.
- All competitors must inform the match steward if they have returned early or will be later than intended. Coast Guard to be informed if members are unaccounted for.
- Open Boat Matches: safety cards will be issued to all entrants and an appointed steward will be responsible for checking all have safely returned.

Social Events/Meetings:

Haddon House:

- Minor cuts and grazes: first aid kit situated in the kitchen.
- In case of fire: exits situated at three locations in the meeting room; official fire assembly point is in the front car park.

The Salthouse:

- In case of fire: two exits available, the main entrance and a fire exit at rear of building. Assembly point is on the green.

Highlands End:

- Minor cuts and grazes: first aid kit situated in bar and kitchen.
- In case of fire (restaurant): three exits available, the main entrance, side entrance and fire exit behind disco. Fire assembly point is in the car park.

Summary:

- Angling is an extremely varied and dynamic sport in which participants experience varying conditions and changing environments on an almost continuous basis; members must continue to evaluate these changing conditions and decide whether or not it is safe to start/continue fishing.
- It is advisable to carry a mobile phone at all times along with the current membership card on which is listed the main officer's numbers. In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the appropriate emergency service.
- This Safety and Risk Assessment Statement will be reviewed annually. If any members feel that any issues need to be raised they should contact the appointed Health and Safety Officer immediately.
- Health and Safety Officer: Rod Barr 01308 423472