

LANFIM31

Respond to a fish kill incident



Overview

This standard is about being able to respond appropriately to fish kill incidents in terms of being able to remove and dispose of dead fish, take action to reduce or remove the cause of the fish kill and take action to prevent further fish deaths. It includes working with others.

This standard requires that the possible causes of the fish kill incident can be identified, including:

1. low oxygen levels
2. pollution incidents
3. poor environmental management
4. water shortages
5. biological agents
6. disease

This standard requires that the following equipment be deployed to minimise the impact of the incident:

1. splashing aeration
2. air injection aeration
3. hydrogen peroxide aeration
4. booms
5. spill kits

This standard requires that you carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements and that you work to maintain bio-security and minimise environmental disturbance at all times.

The legislation controlling the application of this standard will vary depending on the location of the fishery within England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 observe fish kill incident to determine the nature and likely cause of fish stress/death
- P2 obtain and accurately label samples from fish kill incident to support investigations
- P3 prepare and maintain equipment into a serviceable condition
- P4 deploy equipment to control and minimise the impact of incident
- P5 prepare holding units to receive and maintain the condition of captured fish
- P6 use catching methods to effectively catch and remove live fish as appropriate
- P7 monitor and observe the impact of interventions
- P8 dispose of dead fish and waste according to organisational procedures
- P9 clean and store fish catching equipment after use
- P10 maintain accurate records relating to fish kills

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 what fish need to thrive
- K2 causes of fish stress/kills
- K3 how algal blooms can cause stress in fish
- K4 how to recognise stress in fish
- K5 how to recognise common fish diseases
- K6 what is classified as a fish kill incident
- K7 the roles and responsibilities of the agencies responsible for dealing with fish kill incidents
- K8 the health and safety implications associated with fish kills
- K9 the importance of maintaining bio-security during fish kill incidents
- K10 how to report fish kills
- K11 common causes of pollution
- K12 the control of pollution using booms
- K13 aeration and its use in responses to fish kills
- K14 how to collect, store and dispatch water samples and samples of live fish and dead fish
- K15 the legal requirements that control the disposal of waste from fish kill incidents

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Glossary

The definitions below should help you understand the standard:

Interventions

The actions taken to lessen the impact of the incident e.g. the removal of live fish, the deployment of aeration, the deployment of booms

Holding units

Equipment used to hold live fish e.g. buckets, dustbins, tanks, etc.

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