
Overview

This standard is about preparing to and catching fish from a fishery, following a specification. It covers determining the most appropriate way of catching fish and preparing the equipment to be used to safely catch and hold live fish. It includes the application of safe catching and handling methods which minimise the stress caused to fish. It also covers the maintenance of the captured fish in holding units.

This standard requires the use of the following catch methods:

1. nets
2. hook and line
3. traps
4. pond drain down

This standard requires that you carry out work safely in line with legal 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 obtain fish catching specification
- P2 assess water conditions to determine the most appropriate catch method to employ (visibility, water flow, depth)
- P3 prepare and maintain catching equipment into a serviceable condition
- P4 prepare holding units to receive and maintain the condition of captured fish (buckets, tanks, etc.)
- P5 use catching methods to effectively catch fish
- P6 establish them safely in holding unit(s)
- P7 handle captured fish in a manner which minimises stress
- P8 monitor and observe fish and report on signs of stress, disorder and abnormality
- P9 observe and report on the performance of the catching operation, ensuring compliance with specification
- P10 sterilise and store fish catching equipment after use

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the health and safety requirements associated with fish catching and holding methods
- K2 legal fish catching methods and the different situations they may be applied
- K3 how to determine the most appropriate catch method linked to the site and the water conditions
- K4 why fish are caught as part of fisheries management
- K5 how and when fish catching equipment can damage fish
- K6 the environmental conditions required for holding captured fish
- K7 the advantages and disadvantages of different catching methods
- K8 the potential impact of adverse environmental conditions on the catching operation
- K9 how to recognise the condition of fish (physical appearance and mobility)
- K10 how different catch methods can impact on the aquatic environment
- K11 the importance of bio-security to fisheries

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Developed by LANTRA

Version number 1

Date approved April 2010

Indicative review date April 2012

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation LANTRA

Original URN NFIM18

Relevant occupations Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Car; Skilled Agricultural Trades

Suite Fisheries Management

Key words fisheries, analysing, collating, data, population