

Manage suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing

Overview

This standard is about managing suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing. It covers the deployment of resources to investigate, and where appropriate, deal with incidents of unauthorised fishing. It includes the use of effective communication, accurate record keeping and liaising with enforcement authorities, where appropriate.

This standard requires that you carry out work safely in line with relevant legal health and safety requirements and that you ensure your activity maintains bio-security and minimises environmental disturbance at all times.

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. carry out all activities required to safely manage suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing, in line with relevant health and safety requirements
2. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work, as required
3. manage suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing within the limits of your own authority, that does not put yourself or others at risk
4. manage the collection of evidence relating to suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
5. liaise with the relevant enforcement authorities when identifying suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
6. manage resources to identify and deal with suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
7. prepare and maintain evidence records and reports relating to all investigations of suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing and communicate to relevant people, organisations and enforcement authorities

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health and safety requirements associated with managing incidents of unauthorised fishing
2. the relevant legislation controlling fisheries and fishing activity
3. how to recognise incidents of unauthorised and illegal fishing
4. how to manage suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
5. the powers, privileges, duties and responsibilities of bailiffs, fisheries officers and the relevant enforcement authorities involved in fisheries management
6. how, when and by whom arrests can be made when responding to suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
7. when to liaise with enforcement authorities when managing suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
8. how to collect, record and report evidence of unauthorised fishing, and the importance of accuracy in these matters to support prosecutions
9. the importance of being impartial during the collecting of evidence of unauthorised fishing
10. the importance of being professional when managing suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing
11. the relevant legal process to follow as part of a prosecution for unauthorised fishing, and how to prepare for a case
12. the limits of your own authority in managing suspected incidents of unauthorised fishing

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Glossary

Illegal fishing:

Any fishing activity which contravenes fishing legislation

Enforcement authorities:

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the EA, SEPA, the police, fisheries boards

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Developed by	Lantra
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Version Number	1
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Date Approved	February 2018
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Indicative Review Date	February 2021
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Validity	Current
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Status	Original
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Originating Organisation	Lantra
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Original URN	LANFiM22
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Relevant Occupations	Bailiff/Warden; Head Bailiff; Superintendent
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Suite	Fisheries Management
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Keywords	fishing; illegal; incidents; people; equipment; transport
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