

CAST SCHEME – Explanations of Tasks

STARTER

SKILLS
<p>Casting Whip</p> <p>Name two fish/.....</p> <p>Name two baits/.....</p> <p>Catch a fish</p>
<p>Knowing how to keep safe when near water</p> <p>Chair a meter back from water's edge.</p> <p>Be aware of slip and trip hazards at water's edge.</p> <p>Floating Throw Rope Bags, Water Rescue Ropes, are near by on the bank.</p>

CAST LEVEL ONE

Skills
Assemble Rod & Reel or Whip Using ACI Guidelines
Identify Health and Safety issues and other hazards Weil's disease/ open cuts/ hand hygiene/ over head power lines/ water safety / slip and trip hazards on a wet / muddy swim. Sun blocker and suitable wet weather gear. Trying to get tangled floats and feeders out of trees/ bushes etc.
Newcomers Guide & Wildlife Golden Rules Litter / Unattended rods/ Line breakages and snags/ safe rigs/ hooks /be aware of the wild life.
Identify potential areas to fish. Where are the fish in the lake / river. This comes under watercraft, expand on in Level 3
Recognising Bites Does float behave strangely / does the line go slack / line being stripped off the reel. Strike early to avoid deep hooking.
Playing and landing a fish (using a net) It's not a race take your time. Ensure the clutch on reel is set to allow line to be taken. Let the rod do the work, keep at 90 degrees angle to the fish. Pull the rod tip up and wind down. Get the fish to the surface with its head slightly up and slide the fish over the net, never move the net to the fish.
Unhooking a fish Small fish can be held and the hook removed by means of a disgorger if deep hooked. If holding a perch beware of their spines, handle from the head to the tail to ensure dorsal fin is folded flat. Larger fish need an unhooking mat. Ensure it is cool and wet especially in hot weather. Check to ensure there are no other hooks in the fishes mouth.
Holding and handling fish safely Fish are by nature slippery and need to be handled with care to avoid injuring them. Beware of the spines on perch. If a large fish flaps badly, cover its eyes with a wet weight sling or wet netting of the landing net. For photos Support the head and hold the tail. The angler should be kneeling holding the fish over an unhooking mat when these are taken.
Bankside Tackle Layout See photos in student's handbook. Chair at least one metre back from water edge. Rule of thumb keep item you use often close.
Set up a whip from ACI's leaflet
Learn to cast underarm with a whip

CAST LEVEL 2

Skill
Selecting correct line and understand how to attach tackle
What size of fish you are targeting and how snaggy the swim is will determine the breaking strain of your line. Loop to loop hook-link. Main line to swivels. Mainline to hook attachments.
Choosing swim and equipment that are suitable for the venue and species
Species you are targeting / snags in swim depth will determine equipment and location. Watercraft expanded on Level 3
Adapting methods to species of fish their habitats and the conditions.
Where are the fish in water column. Are they taking the bait on the surface; on the drop or feeding on the bottom. Time of year / temperature / wind and depth of water.
Set up a Wagglers from ACI leaflet
Learn all aspects of this Need to pass this to progress.
Cast overhead with waggler to a given target
Baiting consistently to one spot in the swim which may also hold a feature you have identified, and then casting exactly over the top of this, will be invaluable tools to catch well, and consistently.
Demonstrate correct casting technique
Add underarm casting with a feeder.
Prepare bait and learn about bait
Soak times for micro pellets. Mixing ground baits. Keeping maggots / worms in the shade in hot weather. What species prefer what bait. How to attach baits /bands / hair rigs /directly on to hook
Knots tying
Loop knot essential for connecting hook lengths Tucked half-blood knot
What knots does the student find easiest to tie
Use catapult accurately
Can you put the bait accurately on a specific area consistently.
Overhead pylon sign means;
High voltage and the electricity can jump you mustn't touch go even near cables, electricity can jump across to the rod tip for instance and can kill you!

CAST LEVEL 3

Skill
Targeting specific species of fish using specific tactics Certain fish are mainly bottom feeders while others will take bait at any depth in the water column. Feed the swim little and often. Accurate casting to ensure that the bait and the feed are in the same area. Knowledge of the various species is essential in terms of how they feed / when they feed and their preferred food. Target species would include roach, rudd, perch, bream, carp, pike and tench.
Fishery Rules What hooks are allowed barbed/ semi/ barbless Types of main line (is braid allowed). Keep nets and fish retention Times you can fish. Litter / Fires / Bar B Q's Rigs allowed running / bolt Breaking strain of line / wire Compulsory equipment; unhooking mat / net / pliers / cutter when pike fishing Baits allowed/ baits banned No radios etc
Using suitable rigs for bait presentation Rigs need to be safe which means if the main line snaps will the fish be pulling a large weight around or tethered to a snag, which kills fish. Hook links are normally a lower breaking strain than the main line. Running leads are preferred in most fisheries. There are a variety of baits and anglers try to present them in the most natural way.
Tying own rigs including hook length variants Tying four-inch banded hook lengths is beyond our students. Varying the length of hook-link with a swim feeder is something students can experiment with. They should be able to set up a whip / wagler rod and feeder rod.
Looking at fish habitats in relation to seasons and spawning This comes under watercraft
Learning about fish holding area's WATERCRAFT Weather is a variable factor effecting fish behaviour. Wind in warmer months it is a big supplier of natural food which the fish tend to follow. A cold Easterly wind will drive many fish to the calmer Western bank or into deeper water.

Temperature effects the location of the fish and where they feed in the water column. It also effects their metabolism, so they feed less in colder months. In winter they spend most of their time in deeper water where the temperature is more stable.

Rain can affect fish behaviour. Colouring water from runs-offs, altering barometric pressure and cooling water temperature during a prolonged spell. After a long dry spell it can induce a feeding binge.

Features large overhanging tree branches, lilies, weeds or reeds are a good option when it is warm, and along the base of an underwater slope. All provide sanctuary and are often a source of food. Orientation is also important which part is in shade or sunlight.

Spawning is mainly governed by water temperature. When spawning the fish are not interested in food.

Demonstrate three fishing techniques for chosen discipline

Whips can be fished on the drop; the bottom and over depth.

Floats can be fished on the surface; the drop; on the bottom and over depth.

Feeders can be fished on the drop and the bottom

Ledgers can be fished on the bottom; just off the bottom with a popup and mid-water with a zig rig.

Learn three new knots

Choice is the students

Major exercise review of can you fish unattended

Students checking their tackle box prior to setting up on their swim to ensure they have the bait and the correct equipment.

Students setting up their swim in a safe and efficient manner

Being able to set up their whip and / or rods correctly