



# The Durham Fly Fishing Company

## Safety & Risk Assessment Statement

It is the duty of the Durham Fly Fishing Company as the Organiser to familiarise participating anglers with the principles of safety and risk assessment. Participating anglers must be aware of the risks involved in angling. All participating anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves and carry out their own risk assessment which generally amounts to common sense and take appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others. However, it is a requirement of participation in an organised angling activity that all participants have read, understood and accepted this Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.

### General Safety & Risks Associated with Angling

- Paths** Only use obvious paths along the river or lakeside and beware of uneven ground and rabbit burrows etc.
- Banks** Beware of uneven ground and undercuts in banks and take particular care in fast water and on rocky bottoms. Use a wading staff.
- Power lines** Beware of fishing under power lines and remember electricity can arc over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Remember that graphite is an excellent conductor of electricity.
- Lightning** You are ideally earthed when in water and, if using a carbon or graphite rod, you are a good lightning conductor. If you are on a boat, your rod may well be the highest point around and a prime target for a strike.
- Casting & Hooks** Always show consideration to others users of a riverbank or lake/reservoir by avoiding contacting anyone with you back-cast. If you are on a boat take extra care if you have other occupants, as you can easily contact them whilst casting. It is recommended that protective glasses and a peak or brimmed hat are worn when fishing to protect your eyes from hooks and flies. Artificial flies by their nature have sharp hooks and can cause injury.
- Trees** Fishing under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.
- Insects & Animals** Beware of biting insects e.g. wasps, bees, midges and also risk of ticks. N.B Bulls can be troublesome! as can cows with calves and young bullocks. Approach the river or lake with caution.
- Weils Disease** This is transmitted in rat's urine. Never put wet lines in your mouth or any other items of tackle that has been in the water. Wear waterproof plasters on any cuts or abrasions. There may also be a risk in some waters from treated sewage effluent
- Fishing Platforms** If platforms are floating then treat as Boat Pontoons below. Fishing platforms are constructed to gain access to deeper water. Hence take extra care not to fall in. They are inherently slippy, so care is needed at all times.
- Boat Pontoons** Beware that pontoons constantly move, and hence unstable, invariably wet and slippy. This makes walking on them difficult and increases the possibility of slipping. Maximum caution is needed.
- Getting on, off & moving around on boats** Like pontoons, boats also constantly move and are unstable when their balance is disturbed. The motion of boat and getting on, off and moving around on boats disturbs the balance, hence Maximum caution is needed when getting on, off and moving around on boats.
- Other boats** Beware other boats can approach you from all angles and may be unpredictable in their direction, when 'on the motor' you should always give way to those drifting or under sail.
- Falling in the water** Falling in the water may cause drowning, it is recommended that a buoyancy aid is worn at all times when on or near water. If you do fall in try not to panic, lie on your back and paddle to shallow water.
- Weather conditions** The weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous water conditions. Be aware of changing weather and its consequences upstream and on water levels. Appropriate sun protection and head gear should be used as required and please do ensure proper hydration and nutrition.
- Foreign Countries** When abroad different emergency protocols and arrangements may apply. They along with the language may be unfamiliar to you. You should before fishing seek an understanding of the safety arrangements with the host country

### Specific Risks Associated with Activity

Date: Location: Client:

Type of fishing (i.e. River, Bank, Boat): **River ??**

Identified Specific Risks (see 1- 15 above):

**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13,14** NB Uneven rocky banks and uneven riverbed. Peaty water. Beware of mossy, slippy rocks and slips, trips and falls especially when accessing & egressing river & whilst wading & crossing river. Beware of rising river after rainfall.

Signed: .....

Dated: