



Australian Government

SISOFSH309A Apply fly fishing skills

Release: 3

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Modification History

The release details of this unit are in the table below. The latest information is at the top.

Release	Comments
3	Editorial update.

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to catch fish in freshwater environments, using a fly. This may also apply to saltwater environments where flies can be used to catch fish. The unit focuses on identifying fish habitats, selecting fly and tackle, and applying appropriate fly fishing techniques, including the safe handling, landing and releasing of fish.

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to personnel employed as fishing tour guides, sports fishermen and retail tackle shop employees.

This unit may also apply to leaders working for outdoor education or adventure providers; volunteer groups; not-for-profit organisations or government agencies.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Regulatory requirements may apply to this unit, depending on the waters in which the unit is to be assessed. Confirm requirements with the appropriate state authority.

Pre-Requisites

SISOF SH201A Catch and handle fish

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Prepare to fly fish. | 1.1. Identify target <i>recreational species</i> , their habitats and seasonal cycle.
1.2. Identify potential <i>hazards</i> associated with fly fishing and procedures to minimise <i>risks</i> .
1.3. Access <i>relevant sources</i> to interpret <i>weather and environmental information</i> that may impact on the activity.
1.4. Determine most appropriate <i>fly fishing techniques</i> for the target species.
1.5. Select appropriate fly, <i>fly fishing rig and support equipment</i> for target species and check working order.
1.6. Select safety equipment and gear to minimise risk of injury.
1.7. Assemble and balance fly fishing rig to suit target species, habitat and fishing platform. |
| 2. Catch fish using a fly. | 2.1. Locate appropriate <i>fly fishing location</i> and outline safety measures according to <i>relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures</i> .
2.2. Utilise personal protective equipment according to relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures.
2.3. Cast fly using an appropriate technique and present fly to the target species in a natural manner.
2.4. Monitor fly and fishing rigs performance and change settings as required, to optimise outcomes.
2.5. Retrieve rig and land fish in an appropriate manner according to relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures. |
| 3. Handle fish. | 3.1. <i>Handle and release fish</i> in a humane manner according to relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures. |

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

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|--------------------------------|--|
| | 3.2. Release fish using appropriate tagging and return techniques.. |
| | 3.3. Despatch retained fish in a humane manner according to relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures. |
| 4. Finalise fishing operations | 4.1. Analyse performance of the fly and fishing rig. |
| | 4.2. Identify improvements or modifications for future fly fishing sessions. |
| | 4.3. Clean, maintain and safely stow fishing rig and equipment according to organisational policies and procedures. |

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- problem-solving skills to:
 - respond appropriately to changing conditions
 - decide on fly fishing rigs, equipment and materials to use
 - determine techniques to use when fly fishing in various conditions
- planning and organising skills to:
 - source fly fishing flies, tackle, equipment and materials
 - ensure all gear and equipment is in good working order
 - determine target fish, fly fishing rig and techniques to use to catch fish
- literacy skills to analyse, interpret and apply weather and environmental information, relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures to ensure safe conduct of fly fishing activities
- self management skills to:
 - review and reflect on own performance
 - set goals to improve fly fishing techniques
- first aid and emergency response skills appropriate to the location to enable initial response to emergencies and personal health care.

Required knowledge

- legislation and organisational policies and procedures to enable safe and legal conduct of all activities performed in fly fishing environments
- fish species preferred habitats and food or feeding styles
- fly fishing locations and best times to target fish species including tidal pattern, evening, dawn, season, migratory pattern, lunar cycle, breeding cycle
- equipment types, characteristics and technology used for fly fishing, the advantages and disadvantages of the range of equipment, and factors affecting appropriate selection of equipment safety equipment and gear to minimise risk of injury
- fly patterns and commercial flies suitable for target species
- fly fishing rigging and rigging techniques and rig setting adjustments to optimise performance
- fly deployment methods, techniques and tackle which present the fly to the target species in the most natural and advantageous manner
- safe and appropriate rig and catch retrieval techniques which minimise stress to the fish and damage to the rig
- landing and fly removal techniques appropriate to the species of fish
- techniques in handling fish and returning undersized and unwanted fish to the water without damage
- techniques to humanely despatch of fish quickly and decisively
- weather and environmental information to ascertain possible conditions and their

affect on fly fishing activities

- dangerous fish species and their defining features and methods of handling them.

Evidence Guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- applies safety measures to conduct fly fishing activities and selects safety equipment and gear to minimise the risk of injury
- applies a range of fly fishing techniques and processes to catch and handle fish using flies
- evaluates and reflects on own performance to identify strengths and weaknesses and areas that need improvement.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure participation in multiple fly fishing activities in locations that reflect local conditions to demonstrate competency and consistency of performance.

Assessment must also ensure access to:

- freshwater or saltwater fly fishing environments
- equipment to fly fish in various environments.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- observation of safe participation and demonstration of all practical tasks during fly fishing
- oral or written questioning to assess knowledge of fly fishing techniques
- observation of safe and humane catching and handling of fish
- third-party reports from a supervisor detailing performance.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended.

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Recreational species may include:

- Brown Trout
- Rainbow Trout
- Brook Trout
- Bass
- Atlantic Salmon
- Sooty Grunter
- Barramundi
- Saratoga
- Trout Cod.

Hazards may include:

- temperature extremes
- slippery or unstable terrain
- dangerous animals and insects
- stinging trees and nettles
- dense vegetation
- group management hazards
- slippery or unstable shore
- poor posture, poor technique
- poor carrying techniques
- loose or insecure craft when being transported.
- other craft.

Risks may include:

- hypothermia
- heat exhaustion
- injuries
- exhaustion
- lost party or party member
- equipment failure.

Relevant sources may include:

- Bureau of Meteorology
- media
- land managers or agencies
- coastal patrol or coastguard
- volunteer marine rescue
- local knowledge

Weather and environmental information may include:

- satellite images
- daily and weekly forecasts

Fly fishing techniques may include:

- maximum and minimum temperatures
- weather warnings
- event warnings
- river levels
- synoptic charts
- high and low tide predictions.
- dry fly
- wet fly
- nymphing
- streaming
- czech or polish nymph technique
- floating line
- sinking line
- intermediate line
- match the hatch
- dead drift or static
- moving, slow retrieval of fly
- lure stripping, fast retrieval of fly
- fishing the booby
- strip strike
- side strike
- overhead cast
- slide or sling cast
- false casting
- single haul
- double haul or feeding or shooting fly-line
- curve cast
- roll casting
- sidearm casting.

Fly fishing rig and support equipment may include:

- fly rods
- fly lines and care products
- strike indicators
- fly reels and care products
- leaders and tippets
- flies
- wading equipment.

Fly fishing locations may include:

- tropical, temperate and cold environments
- fast and slow flowing rivers
- streams
- freshwater impoundments
- saltwater environments.

Relevant legislation may include:

- occupational health and safety
- permits or permission for access
- environmental regulations
- marine regulations

Organisational policies and procedures may include:

- occupational health and safety
- safety and emergency procedures
- use, maintenance and storage of fly fishing equipment
- procedures for handling dangerous fish
- humane handling of fish policies
- procedures for returning undersized and unwanted fish to water
- manufacturer's design specifications and recommendations for equipment use
- code of ethics.

Handle and release fish may include:

- using fish handling tools, crates and rubber landing nets
- removing hook or cutting the line
- de hooking with fish still in the water
- using gentle release practices
- flogging a fish
- releasing weights.

Unit Sector(s)

Outdoor Recreation

Competency Field

Fishing