

Risk Assessment – Crabbing

Area of Operation: crabbing and fishing

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Falls or Entry into the Water	Risk of falls or entry into the water, leading to drowning or injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select fishing areas with safe footing, avoiding steep, slippery, or unstable edges. ○ Ensure students understand boundaries and follow safety instructions on staying within designated areas. ○ Staff trained in water safety and carry throw lines for emergencies. ○ Strictly instruct students not to enter the water. ○ Staff positioned near edges for monitoring and emergency response. When on a boat Students must wear lifejackets, properly fitted with staff assistance and staff to reinforce the provider's instructions to stay seated and within safe areas on the boat.
Fishing Equipment (Hooks, Lines, etc.)	Injury from hooks, tangled lines, or improper handling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide age-appropriate equipment and demonstrate safe handling. ○ Closely monitor equipment use. ○ Staff carry first aid kits to handle minor injuries.
Fish Handling and Regulations	Risk of injury to students or harm to fish from improper handling; legal penalties for noncompliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obtain required licenses and follow local fishing rules, including catch-release and size limits. ○ Train students in gentle handling techniques (e.g., wetting hands before touching fish).
Separation or Wandering Fishing on Land	Risk of students straying from the group, potentially moving toward deeper water or restricted areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement a buddy system with small groups supervised by each staff member. ○ Staff carry ID, mobile phones, or radios for quick communication in case of separation.
Separation or wandering When on a Boat	Risk of separation during boarding and disembarking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct headcounts, especially when boarding/disembarking. - Staff use buddy systems and remain vigilant during transitions on and off the boat.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Extreme Weather Conditions (All)	Risk of sunburn, dehydration, hypothermia, or discomfort from exposure to extreme weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check weather forecasts; ensure appropriate clothing and supplies (e.g., sunscreen, hats, rain gear). ○ Plan regular breaks in shaded or sheltered areas. ○ Encourage hydration and monitor for weather-related discomfort.
Seasickness	Discomfort from seasickness or extended periods of standing or sitting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor for signs of seasickness or fatigue; provide seating or mats. - Offer regular hydration and snacks, positioning students in shaded or seated areas if needed.
Fatigue or Discomfort (Sea, Freshwater)	Fatigue or discomfort from extended standing or sitting during fishing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan regular breaks, providing seating or mats for comfort. ○ Monitor for signs of discomfort or fatigue, ensuring hydration and snack breaks.
Interaction with the Public	Risk of misunderstandings or conflicts with other anglers or boat passengers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare students to behave respectfully around others and keep noise levels low. ○ Staff positioned to monitor interactions and mediate as necessary. ○ Staff trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution techniques.
Use of Public Toilets	Risk of separation from the group or interactions with strangers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff accompany students to toilets, ensuring privacy and monitoring. - Designate meeting points outside restrooms to prevent separations.
Emergency Situations	Confusion or delay in response to emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff familiar with emergency procedures and assembly points. ○ Communicate emergency plans calmly to students. ○ Staff carry mobile phones for emergency contact and first aid supplies for immediate assistance.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027