The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the CARA generic template. These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

Activity scope
This guideline relates to student participation in bait gathering using lines, nets, pumps or similar devices, catching fish using lines (angling), and the use of approved crab and crayfish apparatus, cast nets and/or drag nets, as a curriculum activity.

Mandatory/special requirements
Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

Rock fishing (fishing from rocky outcrops into the sea) is not a permitted curriculum activity.

All permits, rules and regulatory requirements must be adhered to and catches are to be within legal requirements. Refer to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) recreational fishing rules and regulations for further information. Some areas (e.g. parts of Moreton Bay) are closed to recreational bait gathering. Teachers should consult appropriate documents such as zoning plans produced by DAF or other relevant authorities.

Guidelines that are relevant to this activity have been established. Refer to Managing Risks in Recreational Water.

A Handling living marine organisms curriculum activity risk assessment must be completed for this activity. Other risk assessments may also be required. Refer to Power boating in small craft activity guideline and Power boating in large craft activity guideline.

Stings and bites by stonefish, irukandji and other dangerous marine animals can be fatal. Please seek information on dangerous marine animals for the specific location prior to the activity commencing.

Risk level
- **Low** risk: Yabby pumping in low risk locations.
- **Medium** risk: Medium risk fishing locations and equipment (e.g. fishing on a jetty, fishing with single hooks, use of bait nets).
- **High** risk: High risk fishing locations and equipment (e.g. fishing from boats, fishing with lures and multiple hooks).
- **Extreme** risk: Extreme risk fishing locations and equipment (e.g. fishing in known crocodile habitats, drag netting).

Minimum supervision requirements
- The swimming capability of all participants has been considered and extra supervision for non-swimmers has been allocated if required.
- At least one adult must be ready to enter the water at all times to assist a student. At no time should an adult leader rely solely on students to effect the recovery of a swimmer in difficulty.
Minimum qualifications for supervisors

- An adult with competence (knowledge and skills) in the teaching of fishing and/or bait gathering, and the ability to implement safety procedures and rescue a student from the water.

Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities

- Appropriate lighting/illumination if the activity is performed at night.
- Permission and/or relevant permits from landowners and land-management agencies to enter their property.
- Enclosed footwear (thick soles where there is a possibility of stonefish).
- Appropriate clothing and sun protection for all weather conditions.
- Fishing equipment that meets the requirements set out by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment. Refer to the Handling living marine organisms activity guideline.
- Lifejackets as outlined by Maritime Safety Queensland.

Hazards and controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazards</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Biological material         | • Check with the local authority (e.g. council) for the presence of water contaminates (e.g. blue-green algae) and other dangers (e.g. stonefish, blue-ring octopus, crocodiles).  
  • Adhere to established hand hygiene practices outlined in the Infection Control Guideline (e.g. hands and nails should be washed thoroughly with warm running water and liquid soap, and then dried thoroughly using a single use towel or disposable paper towel), particularly when eating food after handling bait. |
| Environmental conditions    | • Assess weather conditions ([Bureau of Meteorology](https://www.bom.gov.au)) and obtain advice from the local authority (e.g. lifeguards, surf club members, fishing club) about local conditions and potential hazards.  
  • Cease activities when conditions become unfavourable or beaches are closed to the public.  
  • Check jetties for tripping hazards such as loose boards and protruding nails.  
  • Check the area for sharp oysters and barnacles and advise students of any potential hazards.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Equipment                   | • Use flattened barbs on hooks to reduce the risk of injury.  
  • Provide instruction in:  
    - the safe handling of hooks and fishing knives  
    - safe casting of handlines and fishing rods (e.g. ensure students are aware of their proximity to others)  
    - safe storage of fishing equipment whilst traveling to and from the fishing location  
    - how to remove a hooked fish safely (using different types of hooks and lures).                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Physical exertion           | • Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion, particularly if wading in deep water while dragging a bait net.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Student considerations      | • Ensure participants are adequately spaced.  
  • Ensure systems are in place to monitor student numbers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Vehicles                    | • Constantly monitor surroundings for presence of vehicles (e.g. boats, cars).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
### Hazards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste disposal/spill clean up</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wastes disposal/spill clean up</td>
<td>• Ensure all remains of fish, unwanted bait and other marine life are disposed of appropriately, in order not to cause a hazard in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure any broken, damaged or unwanted fishing tackle, including line, is disposed of responsibly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water – still/moving</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water – still/moving</td>
<td>• Establish and practise a set of simple signals for use when assistance is required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional links

- Animals in Queensland State Schools  

- Reef dangers  

### Disclaimer:

This document is developed and distributed on this website by the State of Queensland for use by Queensland state schools. Use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or information in this document by persons or organisations other than the State of Queensland is at their sole risk. All users who use, adapt or rely on this document or any information in this document are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency and appropriateness to their particular circumstances. The State of Queensland makes no representations, either express or implied, as to the suitability of this document or the information in this document to a user’s particular circumstances.

To the full extent permitted by law, the State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs arising from the use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or any information in this document.

Links in this document to external websites are for convenience only and the State of Queensland has not independently verified the information on the linked websites. It is the responsibility of users to make their own decisions about the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of the information at these external websites.