

1. Management of outdoor Fishcare activities in the case of severe weather.

In the case of a Fish Right with Fishcare activity being organised on a day that has severe weather or has been predicted to have severe weather the Fishcare Coordinators and Fishcare Volunteers retain the right to cancel/postpone the event in the interest of the safety of our Fishcare Volunteers and Participants. At all times the Coordinators and Volunteers will seek to run an indoor session with participants in place of the outdoors fishing activity where possible.

There are a number of weather factors that have a significant impact on the safety of recreational angling including temperature, wind speed, rain, bushfire rating and thunderstorms. To ensure that all of our participants and volunteers are safe and comfortable from the weather at all times we have created these trigger points that will be used to determine whether it is appropriate to run an outdoors fishing clinic or not.

2. Temperature

To ensure our volunteers and participants are not exposed to extreme temperatures while conducting an outdoors Fishcare activity the coordinators or Fishcare Volunteer organising the event will assess the weather forecast 24 hours prior to the beginning of the event and make the call as to whether the event goes ahead. Weather forecasts will be taken from the detailed 48 hour forecasts that are available on the Bureau of Meteorology website or Weatherzone smart phone app. The time of the planned event will be taken into account. Once a call has been made it will be communicated throughout the relevant Fishcare volunteers and coordinators along with the event participants.

At the time of the planned event forecasts of 35 degrees or greater or 12 degrees or lower will act as trigger points that result in the immediate cancellation of the event and contact made with the event participants seeking to either reschedule or run an indoor activity. Communication will need to be clear and open between the participants and the Fishcare coordinators and volunteers to ensure that any alterations to the above parameters are clearly understood by both parties.

3. Wind

Strong winds greatly reduce the safety of fishing activities due the effect they have on water conditions such as swell and currents, they also pose a great risk with a number of participants casting. The Fishcare Coordinators or Volunteers will assess the detailed 48 hour forecast on the Bureau of Meteorology website or Weatherzone smart phone app 24 hours prior to an event and make a call based on the predicted wind speed at the time

of the event. Once a call has been made it will be communicated throughout the relevant Fishcare volunteers and coordinators along with the event participants.

At the time of the planned event a forecast of wind speeds of 30 km/h or 16 knots will act as a trigger point that results in the immediate cancellation of the event and contact made with the event participants seeking to either reschedule or run an indoor activity. Wind direction can also play a significant role in whether an activity is safe or not. At all events Fishcare coordinators and volunteers will seek to fish with participants in a sheltered area yet this may not always be possible. Fishcare Volunteers will make a decision on the safety of the site in their initial Risk Assessment taking into account the wind speed, direction and forecast before making a judgment call in the interest of all volunteers and participants.

4. Rain

Fishcare Coordinators or volunteers will assess the forecast 24 hours out from an event assessing the 48 hour detailed forecast. If the radar is showing heavy showers for the time of the event the event will be cancelled and the participants contacted to reschedule or to run an indoor activity. The other consideration that the Fishcare Coordinators and Volunteers will take into account is whether the forecast rain is likely to greatly increase the risk in terms of dangerous water conditions. If an activity is planned for a river or estuary that is likely to experience high flows that create a danger to participants the event participants will be contacted and asked to either relocate or reschedule the event.

5. Bushfire Rating

In the case of events being planned in bushfire prone areas such as Wilson's Promontory or some of the sites in East Gippsland the Fishcare Coordinator or Volunteer will assess the Fire Danger Rating for the coming days. A rating of Severe, Extreme or Code Red will all warrant the immediate cancellation of the event and the immediate evacuation by all volunteers and coordinators either the night prior or first thing in the morning. Fishcare Coordinators and Volunteers will at all times obey advice given by government departments in reference to bushfire danger.

6. Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms will be assessed on the Bureau of Meteorology or Weatherzone smartphone app 48 hour detailed forecast with all cancelled 24 hours prior to the event and communicated with the event participants seeking to reschedule or to run an indoor activity.

The trigger points put a large reliance on the Bureau of Meteorology's forecasts yet Fishcare Victoria feel that this is the best source of information that is accessible to all our volunteers quickly and easily. Forecasts will undoubtedly prove incorrect on certain occasions and we ask all participants to respect the decisions made by the Fishcare Coordinators and Volunteers as the decisions are made in the best interests of all involved.

Fishcare retain the right to cancel or shorten an event due to unforeseen weather conditions that make the outdoor activity unsafe for all volunteers and participants alike.

Participants also have the right to cancel an event at short notice due to inclement weather conditions in the interest of the safety and comfort of their students etc. In which case we ask that there is clear communication made with the relevant Fishcare Coordinator or Volunteers to ensure we get the news as early as possible and minimise the amount of inconvenience to our members.

Signed on behalf of Fishcare Victoria and participant group

Fishcare Victoria Inc.

Participant Group.....

Name:

Signature:

Phone No:

This policy can be updated as required.

