

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTROFISHING ORIENTATION

I have received instruction and orientation about electrofishing from my employer. As a result, I understand and accept the following principles:

1. Electrofishing (EF) is an inherently hazardous activity in which safety is the primary concern. The electrical energy used in EF is sufficient to cause electrocution.
2. During operations, it is critical to avoid contact with the electrodes and surrounding water. The EF field is most intense near the electrodes, but can extend 5-10 m outward.
3. The electrodes are energized by the power source, a generator or battery, and controlled by safety switches; these switches must remain off until the signal to begin EF.
4. The power source has a safety switch that must be turned off immediately if an emergency occurs.
5. The electrodes are usually metal probes suspended in the water. If direct current is used from a boat/raft, the anodes (+) are in front of the boat/raft to catch fish and the cathodes (-) may be suspended from the sides; both can produce electroshock. When a metal boat hull is the cathode, it is safe to use as long as all metal surfaces inside the boat are electrically connected to the hull.
6. Moveable anodes on a boat are dangerous on metal boats. All electrodes on a metal-hulled EF boat should be in fixed position while EF is underway.
7. Dry skin and clothing are good protection against electroshock. The body should be fully clothed during EF. Rubber knee boots are minimal foot protection on EF boats, as are rubber gloves for the hands. A personal flotation device must be worn at all times in an EF boat or, if wading, when the water is considered deep, swift or cold. Ear protection should be used for those working near the generator.
8. At least two members of the EF crew must be certified in CPR and first aid. A first aid kit and, in an EF boat, a fire extinguisher must be within immediate reach during an operation. Electroshock can cause heart fibrillation or respiratory arrest. The EF crew must know how to activate the emergency medical system.
9. A communication system, particularly hand signals, must be available to all members of an EF crew. When multiple anodes are used in a portable EF operation, the buddy system must be used. Above all, NEVER ELECTROFISH ALONE.
10. Using the anode as a dip net is a safety risk for fish and people and should be avoided for typical sampling protocols.
11. An EF operation should proceed slowly and carefully; avoid fish-chasing and other sudden maneuvers. Night activities require bright, bow-mounted, headlights. Operations should cease during lightning or thunderstorms; use discretion during rain. Avoid EF too close to bystanders and livestock (30m).
12. All EF crew members must know who their team leader is and recognize his or her authority as final in operational decisions. However, every crew member has the right to ask questions or express concern about any aspect of an EF operation. A crew member has the right to decline participation in an EF

operation, without fear of employer recrimination, if she/he feels unsafe in such participation.

Signature of Employee _____ Date _____

I have discussed the above named principles with the employee and am satisfied that she/he understands them.

Signature of Supervisor _____ Date _____