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Safety for Bewl Water Anglers

Carry a mobile telephone at all times – Wear a mobile phone in a waterproof holder where it can easily be reached. Programme in Bewl's emergency help numbers for easy dialling:

Bewl Water Fishing Lodge: 01892 890352
Bewl Water Estate Office: 01892 890661
Bewl Water Ranger's Radio link: 01892 890486 (rings 10 times before connecting)
(*Southern Water 24-hour emergency only contact number 01903 267772*)

In emergency ring for help - Do not put yourself at risk by entering the water to recover victims.

Remember:

Reach (with a stick, branch or oar)
Throw (a rope, rescue line or joined clothing)
Wade (only where you know it is safe to do so)
Row (rescue from a boat)

Wear lifejackets

All anglers must wear lifejackets when in boats or on jetties, or when close to deep water. Lifejackets are available from the Fishing Lodge for boat anglers

Swimming is prohibited - Even on a hot day the water in a reservoir can be very cold. There is a risk of drowning or injury from other users.

Protect yourself - Always wear sunglasses and a hat to prevent injury from hooks to your eyes and head. Remember that prolonged exposure to the sun's rays may be harmful – protect yourself from them.

Wear suitable clothing and footwear – Always ensure you are dressed appropriately for the weather protecting yourself from the harmful effects of sun, rain, wind and cold

Know the hazardous areas - Refer to the map and ask at the Fishing Lodge and never wade on the wall of the dam

Do not short cut – Areas of mud exposed at low water may be hazardous. If you get stuck try to work your way back the way you came

Avoid wading - If you have to wade, use a stake or landing net pole to feel your way and note the no-wading areas on the map

Do not wade on the wall of the dam - Keep at least 1 metre away from the water as the wet concrete may become slippery

Check all around before casting - You may be about to injure someone close to you or you could be close to overhead power cables.

Avoid algal blooms - Algae, particularly when decaying, can cause stomach upsets and skin rashes and can be poisonous to dogs. Keep away from areas where algae has accumulated and wash thoroughly in the event of contact

Weil's Disease – All participants in water sports should be aware of the risk of Weil's Disease. Keep cuts and scratches covered, avoid ingesting water and wash thoroughly after contact with water. In the event of serious flu-like symptoms your GP should be made aware that you participate in water sports.

Safety for Boat Anglers

Minimum age – Boats may only be hired by anglers of 18-years old or over. Proof of age may be required

Ask for advice – If doubt about use of boats, weather conditions, operation of the outboard motors and how to get help in an emergency please ask the Fishing Lodge for a safety briefing before departing

Lifejackets - Lifejackets are available from the Fishing Lodge and must be worn when on the jetty or in boats. Moving between jetty and boat is one of the more hazardous areas

Always use engine kill cord – When under power the red cord should be attached to the boat operator to ensure engine cuts out in the event of a fall

Start engine before casting off – Always ensure engine is running before casting off or retrieving anchor, particularly in deep water areas close to the dam

Wear suitable clothing and footwear – You may be exposed to sun, wind, rain or cold for long periods

Avoid studded boots - These can slip in glass fibre boats

Avoid accumulation of rainwater - Keep boats baled

Do not stand up in boat - Standing in a boat is unsafe – you will catch just as many fish sitting down

If you fall overboard - Try and get out of the water as quickly as possible. Stay with the boat even if it has capsized. It will act as a life raft and you will be seen more easily

If someone else falls overboard - If the boat has an engine, stop it at a safe distance from casualty and row. When you are near enough pass them the end of the oar. If you need to throw them a rope – detach the anchor rope from the boat and throw the free end. Help them into the boat near the front or back, not in the middle

How to get back into the boat - If the boat is not full of water it is possible to get back in but always attempt re-entry at the front or back of the boat and not the middle. You will find it easier to get back in if you make a short loop or stirrup (2-3 feet long) from the rope fitted to the boat. Make sure the rope is tied to the boat then drop it over the side, put your foot in the loop and push yourself up into the boat

Keep warm - If you have fallen in make sure you keep warm once you are out of the water. Reduce heat loss as you come ashore by putting on any spare clothing. It is easy to suffer from exposure if you are wet in a cold wind

If weather conditions deteriorate suddenly - Do not take chances, seek shelter and ring for help. Make for the nearest bank or sheltered area and wait for conditions to improve or for the safety boat to arrive

Stay warm – If you become cold return to the Lodge before your decision-making abilities are affected

Avoid alcoholic drinks - Alcohol and boat use is a dangerous combination.

**If you see anyone in difficulty - Find out what is wrong and help if you can
Do not put yourself at risk ~ Telephone for help immediately**