



Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707) 428-2002
www.dfg.ca.gov



Bay Delta Region
Fishing in the City Program
Rotman 4/2019

Community-Based Angler/Aquatic
Education Programs

Table of Contents

Definitions..... 3
Partnerships..... 4
Community Selection and Partners..... 4
School selection 4
Fishing Retailers 4
Service Clubs 5
Role of CDFW 5
Communities with pre-existing programs..... 5
Steps in Creating an FIC program. 5
Stage 1: Initial interest and information gathering 5
Stage 2: First meeting of potential partners 6
Stage 3: Planning the event(s)..... 6
Stage 4: The Initial Event 6
Stage 5: Follow up 7
Stage 6: Planning the next event..... 7
Equipment..... 7
Rod and reels..... 7
Tackle Boxes..... 7
Acquisition of tackle 8
Program Elements..... 8
Fees 8
Prizes..... 8
Role of parent at events..... 8
Target audience at community events..... 8
Advertisement of events 9
Reporting..... 9
Carrying Capacity 9
Fish cleaning 9
Safety 10
Credit..... 10
Rod Loaner programs. 10
Advertising at events..... 11

Types of Clinics	11
Public or community based clinic.....	11
School based programs	11
Fish.....	12
Fish supply	12
Netted enclosures	12
Catch rate	12
Fish planting.....	12
Stocking Permits	12
“No Waste” fish policy	13
Volunteers	13
Role of Volunteers	13
Volunteer recruitment	13
Volunteer/participant ratio	13
Volunteer Training.....	13
Expectations of volunteers.....	14
What volunteers can expect	14
Documents attached:.....	14

Creating Community Based Programs

Goal of Bay Delta Region (BDR) Fishing in the City (FIC) programs:

Working under the guidelines of the CDFW aquatic education plan, create and maintain sustainable, community-based programs that teach skills to allow for a repeatable experience at a local fishing spot.

Definitions

Sustainable program means that the program will continue for many years to come. FIC creates programs that will occur once or more a year for many years rather than one-time events. Sustainable also means that there is no one partner who is so critical that should they leave the partnership for any reason, the partnership would fail.

Community-based means that there are several organizations that work together to create the program, each giving to their best ability. Parameter for Partners (attached) is used as a guideline for what each individual agency provides. Parameters are meant as a starting point. Each community program may be slightly different based on the needs, desires and resources of the particular community.

Repeatable experience means that after going through the program, participants have the skills, knowledge and access to equipment and other resources to continue the activity on their own.

Local fishing spot means a lake, beach or pier that is in an urban area, preferably near where the target audience lives or goes to school and may be accessible by foot, bicycle or public transportation.

Clinics are organized events that systematically teach basic fishing skills and aquatic education concepts. While most programs offered have been beginner level lake programs, the principles can apply to any type of fishing at any level. Volunteers “teach” skills and “assist” participants to learn. The focus is on volunteers empowering participants to accomplish tasks for themselves rather than have volunteers do it for participants.

BDR FIC sponsors learn-to-fish clinics.

Derbies are defined as events where fish are planted, and existing anglers are encouraged to fish. While some Derbies may include a “learn-to-fish element as a part of the event, it tends to be a small component. CCR FIC does not sponsor derbies.

Partnerships

Each program relies on the creation of a partnership to reach mutually agreed upon goals. While the documents “Community Based Fishing Programs” and “Parameters for Partners” are used as guidelines, programs seek to accomplish the combined goals of all partners and not just the goals of CDFW.

In some cases, CDFW FIC may determine that it meets the goals of the FIC program to support a community even though the community demonstrates a lower level of community support

Community Selection and Partners

Communities are selected based on the level of community support toward building these programs. Minimum partner interest includes

- 1) A viable fishing location (stockable lake, bay or ocean area) with public access.
- 2) A lake management agency (i.e. park district) willing to support the program per the Parameters for Partners.
- 3) A service club willing to support the program per Parameters for Partners

Other potential and desirable partners include:

- Schools
- Local tackle retailer
- Storm water pollution prevention programs
- County F&G commissions
- Local fire or police departments
- Any other organization interested in youth, clean water and fishing.

School selection

See “Parameters for Partners”

Any school is eligible for the program. Schools with a pre-existing watershed study program tend to have highly motivated teachers who are most willing to work within the parameters of the program. However, schools lacking this program, but with teachers and an administration willing to fully support the program, can work well. This later group will require additional attention in locating appropriate training and will require assistance in starting a course of study. The sponsoring service club can be asked to provide funds for teacher training and materials.

Fishing Retailers

Local tackle retailers have demonstrated a greater willingness to serve the community than the larger chain stores. The locally owned stores tend to have staff with greater knowledge of local fishing conditions and are more predisposed to assist new anglers with gear selection and fishing tips.

Service Clubs

Rotary International has been the mainstay in the creation of FIC programs in the Bay Area.

The role of the service club is defined in Parameters for Partners. The primary resource needed from the club is the hours of their members. They are expected to pay some expenses, but this is secondary to their time. The other resource they provide is access to local business and local political support.

Role of CDFW

CDFW maintains the role of coordinator and generally is responsible for:

- Setting and facilitating meetings
- Following up to insure commitments are being made
- Ordering tackle
- Insuring each partner has the resources to honor their commitments.

The suggested model that has worked well (e.g South Bay Fishing in the City) is a public/private partner committee with equal voting partners and a fiscal agent nonprofit. CDFW FIC offer expertise and experience in the development of these programs, but play the role of a partner, perhaps even facilitator, but not the final decision maker. This is left to the group.

Communities with pre-existing programs

The most successful programs have been new ones that are created under the partnership model discussed herein. Folding FIC into existing fishing programs has not been successful in most cases.

Steps in Creating an FIC program.

6 months lead time is desirable for the creation of a new program.

It is most efficient to hold two events in one weekend, as this makes best use of the resources and effort of setting up an event (fish plant, setting nets, obtaining equipment): A school event on Saturday followed by a community event on Sunday. This requires a separate service club to sponsor each event and is generally more than most communities can start with.

It is best to start with one or two events per year and build from there. Starting with a pilot event and gradual program/event buildup as the partnership gains momentum has proved to be an effective method of building on-going and sustainable programs.

Stage 1: Initial interest and information gathering

Community contacts FIC coordinator expressing an interest in program or the FIC coordinator identifies and unmet need through outreach.

Coordinator discusses program and outlines partnership model, needed resources and desired partners. (See list of desired partners).

Coordinator contacts other potential partners (obtained in part from discussion above) to discuss program and ascertain interest. Initial contact is done over the phone with follow up face-to-face meetings.

Stage 2: First meeting of potential partners

When all needed partners have expressed a preliminary interest, a meeting is held. CDFW generally fulfills the role of organizer and facilitator. Each participant introduces themselves and tells who they represent and what they are doing to support youth, fishing and clean water.

- CDFW provides an overview of the FIC program.
- Each participant then is asked to discuss what a watershed education/learn-to-fish program could look like for this particular community.

The following should be discussed at preliminary meetings.

- Which partners will participate
- Using Parameters for Partners as a guide, what role each partner will play.
- Will the initial event focus on community or school-based program?
- Set a tentative date for the event
- Event location
- Set a next meeting date.

All comments are recorded, and notes distributed following the meeting.

Stage 3: Planning the event(s)

Regular meetings are held to continue working out the details of the event. Equipment must be purchased or borrowed, tackled ordered, teachers trained, site logistics confirmed.

Stage 4: The Initial Event

Fish are planted one to two days in advance of the event.

If a net is to be used, this is placed one day prior to the planting.

The service club is responsible for providing volunteers

Volunteers are generally managed by the lake management agency

Training is provided to volunteers in advance of the event. For a school-based program, instruction in the classroom portion (Fishing 101) (available at Fishinginthecity.org) is provided.

Event organizers are usually expected to arrive on site at least 90 minutes prior to the event and volunteers are expected an hour the event.

The clinic generally starts at 8 AM.

The final clinic begins at about 10 AM or 10:15. This allows the group enough time to finish the clinic portion and still have an hour to fish.

The event generally ends at noon.

Volunteers are expected to stay to help clean up.

Volunteers are provided with morning refreshments when they arrive, drinks throughout the event and lunch following the event. This is part of the volunteer recognition necessary to make it successful and keep volunteers motivated to come back.

Stage 5: Follow up

Within 2 weeks of the initial event, a debriefing meeting is held with all partners for review. A system of recording positive attributes and things to change for next year is implemented. It is also advisable at this time to plan to attend a meeting of the service club. Rather than making a presentation, CDFW, the lake manager and other partners may request 2-3 minutes to give an overview and thank the sponsors for their support. It is advisable to attend meetings of other partners as well (City Councils, Fish and Game Commissions) for the same purpose.

Stage 6: Planning the next event

Approximately 6 months following the event, a meeting is set to plan an upcoming event.

Equipment

Rod and reels

It is desirable to have participants use rods provided at the event rather than using their own equipment. This ensures all the equipment is in working order and makes it wavier for volunteers to assist every child. As the focus of the event is on the child, parents may not fish even if they bring their own equipment.

Participants are expected to return equipment clean with all tackle removed the line out of the guides, with the line tied off to washer and wound to the reel. Participants are advised in advance they will be expected to pay retail cost (\$30) for any equipment lost or damaged.

A driver's license is held as a security deposit for borrowed rods. A maximum of two (2) rods may be lent per driver's license.

Tackle Boxes

Each participant receives (free of charge) a fully stocked tackle box once they complete the clinic. The cost of these boxes covered by an event sponsor (usually the Service Club). The label on the box should contain the following:

1. A blank line for the name of the participant
2. The name or logo of the funder
3. A message (i.e. a non-point source pollution message, how to tie a knot or a list of rod loaner sites.
4. A pledge of stewardship the child signs.

CDFW may produce camera ready labels for reproduction. To assure quality and durability under outdoor conditions, the labels should be professionally printed rather than produced on an office printer. The cost of a roll of 1000 labels runs about \$80.

Acquisition of tackle

CDFW is usually able to purchase most tackle at a significant discount through a variety of manufacturers. Local tackle stores maybe able to supplement this, although they are rarely able to do so at a lower cost. Some communities prefer purchasing locally regardless of the cost saving. Local tackle stores are generally able to obtain samples of bait at no cost.

Tackle is purchased in bulk and the tackle boxes must be filled prior to or at the event.

Program Elements

Fees

All programs are offered on a free or reasonable fee basis. A reasonable fee is usually defined as \$10 or less per participant with the monies collected being used to directly support the program and not as a fundraiser for the organization or another purpose. It is recommended that parks to waive entrance fees for participants when possible.

Prizes

Prize for catching fish are highly discouraged as this places too high an emphasis on the catch. The goal of the event is to teach fishing skills, emphasize the importance of aquatic stewardship, and allow participants to fish. Participants who catch a fish already have their “prize” and really do not need further rewards. Each participant is to receive instruction, a tackle box, use of a rod and reel, bait, assistance, and the opportunity to fish in a specially stocked lake.

Role of parent at events

Parents are expected to act in a support role for their child.

Community events –Parents are expected to participate in the clinic with their child. They are encouraged to be attentive and learn the skills and information presented in order to assist their child. Parents are not allowed to fish with CDFW (or partner) equipment or with equipment of their own as the focus is on teaching and supporting youth angling development.

School based – Parents and siblings may attend school fishing events, but they are there in a support role for their child and are not allowed to fish.

Target audience at community events

Community events target family participation. One adult may register up to 2 children. Organized groups are not encouraged but may attend if they meet the adult/child requirement.

Advertisement of events

Events are advertised locally rather than on a large-scale basis. As most events have a maximum capacity of 150 participants, it is critical to consider advertising carefully.

Generally, it is best to announce through schools or in local papers rather than in larger regional papers (San Jose Mercury News, San Francisco Chronicle). Events are posted on CDFW and other partner web pages.

Reporting

All programs offered through FIC require Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) documentation for volunteer hours, matching hours and matching dollars. This is necessary to support the federal funds used to support the purchase of fish, CDFW program staff, supplies, and materials. Forms are provided by the FIC coordinator.

Groups or municipalities which fail to complete and return forms will be given a warning and sent a second set of forms. Failure to complete forms may result in being dropped from the FIC program since federal support may be jeopardized.

Carrying Capacity

This is determined on a variety of factors including:

- Available shoreline (5 feet per angler)
- Number of volunteers
- Number of rods available.
- Length of time clinics will be offered.

It is desirable to be able to focus enough time on participants so they learn the skills that are being presented rather than have them feel they are being rushed through a process. Likewise, it is critical for volunteers to enjoy themselves and feel they are doing a “good job”. Burning out volunteers at a specific event does not work toward the goal of creating a sustainable program. When in a rush, volunteers tend to “do things for the participant” rather than taking the time to allow the participant to learn the new skill.

Fish cleaning

Fish cleaning is provided at each event by trained volunteers. CDFW may be able to provide a portable fish cleaning station where needed. Volunteers experienced in cleaning fish are needed as there are dangers inherent in this task. It is essential that the fish cleaning area be monitored to insure knives are not left unattended. Under no circumstance are participants allowed to handle knives or be allowed to clean fish.

Once cleaned, the fish are placed in plastic bags with ice. For school events, the name of the student is written on the bag and placed in an ice chest which is given to the teacher. For community events, the bag is immediately given to the participant. Copies of the handout "After the Catch..." are made available at all events.

At some events, a BBQ is set up and a volunteer can immediately cook the clean fish for participants.

Safety

A minimum of five feet of shoreline space per angler is required to insure adequate space for safe casting. It is recommended that paid staff from one of the host or sponsor agencies who are certified in first aid will be on site at all events. Up to date first aid kits need be available and a pre-determined line of communication should be established prior to the event.

Local fire departments paramedic units may be invited to set up on site. This provides public outreach and insures that in the event of injury, proper help will be readily available.

Credit

It is essential that each partner is recognized equally with other partners. It is desirable for the program to be given an overarching name that describes the geographic area of the FIC program rather than the name of a particular partner. By way of example, "South Bay Fishing in the City" is preferred over "CDFW fishing programs" or "Rotary Fish". Partners are discouraged from putting their name on any particular part of the program). Banners for all partners are displayed equally and in print logos should all the same sizes.

It is the role of CDFW to insure these guidelines are followed.

Rod Loaner programs.

Individual Rod Loaner Programs: Local communities may operate local rod loaner sites if they desire. While these programs have great appeal as a selling point to local communities, they are mostly not functional. Demand for the service is low and it is difficult to maintain the equipment in the long run. While there have been a few successful sites, these tend to be the exceptions rather than the rules.

Group Rod Loaner Programs: To expand the capacity of the FIC program while minimizing staff involvement, CDFW will make rods available to organizations operating learn-to-fish programs. There will be no cost for use of the equipment. Borrower is expected to return the equipment in clean, working order and pay for any equipment lost or broken due to negligence

Advertising at events

Advertising of products or companies is not allowed. Tacked manufacturers are encouraged to donate or sell tackle at a discount to the program, but commercial banners will not be hung.

Types of Clinics

Public or community-based clinic.

A clinic consists of a series of learning stations completed in order with the goal of teaching skills.

A volunteer group leader guides the group through the stations while a station leader teaches the specific content. (See "Clinic Outline" for more specific information)

Learning Stations

- Welcome and Overview
- Safety/Ethics
- Knots
- Casting
- Rigging
- Non-point source pollution/urban runoff

Participants must complete the entire clinic in order to borrow equipment, receive tackle, bait or fish in the reserved area.

Teaching of fishing skills generally begins at 8 AM and the last clinic begins at 10 AM. Participants are allowed to fish until noon.

School based programs

See "Parameters for Partners" for school-based programs

Schools are selected on their willingness to follow the guidelines in "Parameters for Partners". It is desirable to have an entire grade level participate.

Teachers receive training in teaching watershed education from CDFW or an outside organization. They develop (independently or with assistance) a series of lessons highlighting the importance of clean aquatic habitat. It is desirable for this to include discussion of personal actions and responsibilities in maintaining these habitats.

A service club goes into the class to teach basic fishing skills (see Fishing 101 outline) a few days prior to the fishing event.

The students are brought to a local lake for a day of fishing; this generally is on a Saturday. When they arrive, students are greeted by service club members who “assist” them in rigging their rods. They then spend their morning fishing. A lunch is usually provided when the fishing is concluded.

Fish

Fish supply

Fish are generally supplied by CDFW. In many cases, the local sponsor adds additional fish to the planting of the event at their own expense. CDFW stocks program lakes periodically during the year to insure participants who return to the lake to fish have a reasonable chance of catching a fish.

Netted enclosures

Netted enclosures create a smaller lake within a lake. These can be quite useful in increasing the catch rate at a clinic. They require several hundred yards of net and a lake topography that will accommodate them. Lake Staff (with the help of volunteers) is expected to install, remove, clean and return nets.

Netted enclosures require overnight security to insure they are not illegally fished, that the fish are not released or that the fish are not taken.

Catch rate

The focus on the events is the fishing, not the catching. However – it is desirable to have a 50% catch rate – that is at least one out of every two participants catch a fish. The actual catch rate is determined by lake conditions, and the unpredictable aspects of the fish population movement and feeding patterns.

Fish planting

There is no consensus on when fish should be planted for an event. CDFW will work with vendors to arrange planting for events at the date desired by the local partners, recognizing that this is not always possible. Most communities request the fish arrive 1-2 days prior to the event.

Generally, 500-750 lbs of fish are planted based on the size of the lake and the fishing pressure. If a netted enclosure is used, it is posted “closed to public fishing” or “open to event participants only”. It is desirable to plant fish on both sides of the net when using an enclosure.

Stocking Permits

CDFW does not require a private stocking permit if all the following conditions are met:

- The fish planted are for a CCR FIC clinic.
- The lake is one that is regularly stocked by CDFW
- The fish arrive on the same truck as those provided by CDFW
- The event is for children

- Rainbow trout or channel catfish are stocked

“No Waste” fish policy

FIC operates on a “no waste” policy. It is up to the individual angler to decide if they are to keep or release their catch. However, hatchery trout have a high mortality rate once hooked and are therefore poorly suited for catch and release. Therefore, catch and release is highly discouraged for an event with trout. Catfish have a much higher survival release rate for catch and release.

Regardless, if a participant keeps a fish, it will be cleaned and iced for them and they will receive a copy of “after the catch” which includes recipes for preparing fish.

Volunteers

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers “teach” skills and “assist” participants learn. The focus is on volunteers empowering participants to accomplish tasks for themselves rather than have volunteers do it for participants.

Volunteer recruitment

Volunteers are generally recruited through organizations rather than individual volunteers. Members of volunteer organizations are generally managed by the local park agency but can be managed by CDFW. In these cases, they fill out a Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA). High school service clubs may be used as well.

Volunteer/participant ratio

A 1:3 ratio of participants to volunteers is recommended to insure a high quality of experience for participants.

Volunteer Training

It is highly desirable to hold a volunteer training several days prior to the event. 60-90 minutes is usually adequate, and it is ideal to do this at the fishing site if possible.

Fishing 101 (classroom)

CDFW provides training to all volunteers. For the classroom portion (Fishing 101), the handout Fishing 101 outline (available from CDFW or at www.fishinginthecity.org) is used and the members of the club are briefed in the:

- Purpose of the training
- Their role (teach, don't do it for the students)
- Skills (knots, casting rigging)
- Safety overview
- How to handle the equipment
- How to return the equipment to CDFW

Community clinic

It is ideal to hold this training several days prior to the event to allow volunteers time to digest the information presented. Training the morning of the event is less successful but can be done. Covered in the training are

- Purpose of the event
- Their role (teach, don't do it for the students)
- Skills (knots, casting rigging)
- Safety overview
- How to handle the equipment
- How to handle difficult participants, injuries or other problems
- How the day ends
- Expectations of volunteers

Expectations of volunteers

- Arrive on time and ready to go
- Stay for the entire event
- Wear a CDFW or club vest that identifies you as a volunteer
- Complete all forms as required
- Help participants, don't do it for them
- Teach only the skills and methods you are taught
- Refer problems or injuries to a paid staff member
- Be here to help.
- Children of volunteers are welcome at events ONLY if they register and participate with another adult
- Smoking or vaping is not allowed
- Volunteers are expected to stay for the entire event and assist with clean up.
- Always be in line-of sight of event coordinator when with a child.

What volunteers can expect

- A well-organized event
- A meaningful job assignment
- Clean equipment in good working order
- Training
- Assistance and mentoring
- The opportunity to serve the community
- Morning snacks
- Lunch
- Drinks
- Bathroom breaks

Documents attached:

Community Based-Fishing Programs

Parameters for Partners – Community based programs

Parameters for Partners – School based programs

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707)428-2002

April 2, 2019

San Francisco Bay Area Fishing in the City
Community Watershed Education/Fishing Program

Community Fishing and Watershed Education programs provide opportunities to enjoy aquatic resources while helping community members understand the role they play in maintaining clean and healthy waterways.

This is achieved through the cooperation of community institutions including schools, service clubs, local government, park agencies, water districts, storm water pollution prevention programs, tackle retailers, California Fish and Game (CDFW) and anyone else that is interested in kids, fishing and clean water.

***The ultimate goal is to create repeatable fishing experiences,
improve recreational opportunities for residents of your community,
and to create stewards of our waterways.***

A Fishing in the City program includes:

1. Interested and enthusiastic teachers receiving training in watersheds and fish ecology.
2. Classes studying and exploring a local aquatic resource. This could be a creek, lake or bay. The important thing is that students get "knee-deep" in the resource.
3. A local service club (e.g., Rotary International) adopting the school. After receiving training, club members go into classrooms to teach "Fishing 101" which includes safety and ethics, knot tying, rigging and casting.
4. The service club, CDFW, and other partners sponsoring a day of fishing for the students. The lake is stocked with fish and lunch is provided.
5. Partners offering a learn-to-fish clinic to the community at large. This allows the families to share in the students' new found hobby.
6. Establishing rod-lending libraries in the community to insure anyone with the desire can continue to fish.

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Ethan Rotman at (415) 999-5924 or ethan.rotman@wildlife.ca.gov or visit www.fishinginthecity.org.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707)428-2002

April 2, 2019

Parameters for Partners

San Francisco Bay Area Fishing in the City Community fishing and watershed education programs

These parameters outline the roles partners play in development of a public fishing and watershed education.

Premise

***Fishing in the City** is a community-based approach to creating repeatable fishing opportunities and aquatic education for youth and their families. Public fishing events are offered to encourage ethical use of our aquatic resources. Fishing is used as a "hook" to help communities understand the value of watershed protection and restoration and why it is important to be a steward of our environment.*

Objectives

- ◆ Provide a positive recreational and learning experience for youth and families.
- ◆ Help communities learn about their local watershed and how human activities affect the quality of water in local streams, lakes and the bay
- ◆ Provide youth and their families with the skills and tools to continue fishing
- ◆ Serve as a catalyst for youth to interact with inter-generational role models
- ◆ Fulfill the goals and objectives of each partner

Partner Responsibilities

Service club

- Assign an Event Coordinator to work with other partners.
- Recruit volunteers to teach the fishing clinic and staff shoreline (1:3 ratio).
- Make funds available for tackle boxes, tackle and bait for all participants.
- Coordinate publicity and public relations.
- Provide a banner to identify their organization.

4/2/2019

page 16 of 20

- Serve volunteers morning reception and lunch.
- Check all rods to ensure they are in working order following the event.

Lake Managers

- Prepare the site for events.
- Provide first aid equipment and qualified staff.
- Provide staff for event.
- Waive fees for the event.
- Coordinate all onsite activities.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Recruit and coordinate service club, school and municipality.
- Provide expertise in development of the fishing program.
- Provide training to service club members.
- Facilitate meetings, as needed.
- Provide biological expertise to lake, as needed.
- Help secure fish for the event.
- Provide "Kids Book of Fishing" and other publications or displays.

Other event partners

- Provide fully contained displays.
- Provide banner for display.
- Arrive one hour prior to event for setup and orientation.
- Complete and submit information form (will be provided) on agencies participation.

Other partners can include local science and nature centers, tackle retailers, water districts, storm water pollution prevention programs, County Fish and Game Commissions, fishing clubs or anyone else with an interest in kids, fishing and clean water.

If you have questions or would like more information on creating a Fishing in the City program in your community, please contact Ethan Rotman, Fishing in the City Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Area at (415) 999-5924 or ethan.rotman@wildlife.ca.gov www.fishinginthecityorg

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707)428-2002

Parameters for Partners

San Francisco Bay Area Fishing in the City

School-based fishing and watershed education programs

These parameters outline the roles partners play in development of a school-based watershed education and fishing program.

Premise

***Fishing in the City** is a community-based approach to creating repeatable fishing opportunities for youth and their families. Fishing events are offered as a part of a larger class exploration and study of the local watershed. Fishing is used as a hook to help students understand the importance of environmental stewardship.*

Objectives

- ◆ Provide a positive recreational and learning experience for youth and their families.
- ◆ Create a link between watershed study and formal education programs.
- ◆ Assist youth in learning about their local watershed and how human activities affect the quality of water in local streams, lakes and the bay.
- ◆ Provide students with the skills and tools to continue fishing on their own.
- ◆ Serve as a catalyst for youth to interact with inter-generational role models.
- ◆ Fulfill the goals and objectives of each partner.

Partner Responsibilities

Participating School

- Assign an Event Coordinator to work with other partners.
- Secure commitment from all teachers in selected grade level for program.
 - Develop and implement watershed study/fish ecology lessons prior to and following the fishing event.
 - Provide classroom time for the "Fishing 101"
 - Sign waiver for publicity release for students.
 - Provide "Hold Harmless" insurance to sponsors and facility.

- Provide first aid during fishing event.
- Display a banner at the event.
- Participate in an evaluation of the program

Service club

- Assign an Event Coordinator to work with other partners.
- Provide volunteer mentors to teach "Fishing 101" in the classroom.
- Recruit volunteers to assist students at the lake (1:3 adult/student ratio).
- Secure rods and reels for the event and rod loaner program.
- Cover costs of tackle; tackle boxes, bait, volunteer refreshments (morning snack and lunch) and other incidentals.
- Check all fishing rods following the event.
- Display a banner to identify their organization.
- Provide lunch for the school children.
- Provide transportation for students from the school to the fishing site.
- Participate in an evaluation process for the program.

Lake Managers

- Prepare the site for events.
- Provide first aid equipment and qualified staff.
- Provide staff for event.
- Waive fees for the event.
- Coordinate all onsite activities.
- Participate in an evaluation process for the program.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Recruit and coordinate service club, school and municipality.
- Provide expertise in development of the fishing program.
- Provide training to service clubs in "Fishing 101"
- Facilitate meetings, as needed.
- Provide biological expertise to lake, as needed.
- Help secure fish for the event.
- Provide "Kids Book of Fishing" and other publications or displays.
- Assist the teachers in development of watershed study program, as needed.

Other event partners

- Provide fully contained displays.
- Provide banner for display.
- Complete and submit information form on club's participation.

Other partners can include local science and nature centers, tackle retailers, water districts, storm water pollution prevention programs, fishing clubs or anyone else with an interest in kids, fishing and clean water.

***If you have questions or would like more information on creating a Fishing in the City program in your community, please contact Ethan Rotman, Fishing in the City Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Area at (415) 999-5924 or ethan.rotman@wildlife.ca.gov
www.fishinginthecity.org***