

Notification of Working Environment Hazard and Risk Reduction Steps (April 2023)

Work Group: MNS CEED Shellfish Farm employees and supervisors

Work Task: Manual handling of shellfish cages (bringing up cages from underwater by hand)

Hazard: Recreational anglers are getting fishing lures and hooks snagged on the shellfish farm cages. The lures/hooks get caught on the cages and are not easily visible underwater. The lures/hooks can **cut or puncture** your hands when you pick up or move the cages. Cut and puncture wounds from metals carry the risk of infection, such as tetanus.



Example fish hook hand injury // Photo credit: Reddit



Ferrycliffe Farm shellfish cages // Photo credit: RWU Website

Risk Reduction Steps:

- 1) Complete all required training before completing any tasks.
- 2) Always wear the correctly-sized waterproof cut/puncture gloves provided for this task. Never handle cages without these gloves.
 - a. Follow supervisor instructions and manufacturer requirements for glove use, care, storage, and donning/doffing (putting on/taking off).
 - b. Visually inspect gloves for signs of wear/tear/degradation prior to each use. Do not use damaged or incorrectly-sized gloves.
- 3) If you are able to do so, visually inspect the cage area where you are placing your hands prior to doing so.
 - a. Check for signs of caught fishing line, hooks, or metallics/bright paint that could indicate a lure/hook.
 - b. Do not touch areas that appear to visually indicate a hook might be present.
- 4) Visually check all cages for fishing line and lures/hooks after bringing them up to shore and prior to additional handling. Remove and dispose any visible lures/hooks from the cages before re-deploying.
 - a. In addition to the waterproof cut/puncture gloves, wear ANSI Z87.1+ rated safety glasses when removing lures/hooks
 - b. Use a hand tool you have been trained to use, such as needle-nose pliers, to remove the lure/hook from the cage.
 - c. Immediately place the lure/hook into disposable small corrugated cardboard box or plastic container, close the container, and dispose of the container in the trash.
- 5) All Shellfish Farm team members (students, volunteers, and employees) are **strongly encouraged** to have an up-to-date tetanus vaccine.
- 6) All Shellfish Farm team members (students, volunteers, and employees) are **required** to have up-to-date CPR and First Aid certifications on file with CEED.

Waterproof Cut/Puncture Glove (WCPG) Information

All waterproof cut/puncture gloves (WCPG) used by RWU Shellfish Farm Team members for handling shellfish cages must be reviewed and approved by RWU EHS and RWU MNS/CEED Shellfish Hatchery staff prior to use to check for acceptability (protection level, fit, and function).

- Regular work gloves are not to be used as substitutes for approved WCPG.
- RWU must provide WCPG to Shellfish Farm Team members to use while on the job.

Here are several links to the currently approved WCPG manufacturer websites. Any sample vendor links are included as a reference and are not an endorsement of a particular vendor.

Currently In-Use WCPG – Field-Tested and Preferred by Shellfish Hatchery

[Hexarmor 7200](#)

Currently Approved Alternative WCPG – Reviewed and noted as providing an appropriate level of protection if In-Use gloves are not available

[Ansell Ringers R080](#)

[MCR N2659HVL](#)

WCPG Use, Storage, and Care

- Store the gloves either hanging up to or lying flat to dry in closed in a cool, dry, location out of direct sunlight, water, and chemicals.
- Try on gloves and review the manufacturer information on sizing/fit to determine the size that best fits you. A snug, but not too tight, fit is the goal – one that allows for full range of motion through fingers and wrists (too tight can be painful over time) but is not loose (loose fabric can get caught/tear on equipment).
- Visually check for tears, degradation, holes, and other damage prior to use. Do not use damaged WCPG. Obtain a new pair from your supervisor and throw away the old pair in the regular trash.
- Follow all manufacturer recommendations and guidance.
 - [Hexarmor 7200 Care Information](#)
 - [Hexarmor 7200 Sizing Guide ← includes printable measurement guide](#)
 - [Hexarmor 7200 Spec Sheet](#)

Safety Glasses Information

All safety glasses used by RWU Shellfish Farm team for removal of fishing hooks from shellfish cages must carry the Z87.1 rating. Tinted/polarized lenses are not required but may be a personal preference for users working outdoors, particularly on/near the water, where the lens polarization treatment may assist with clearer viewing when looking at objects underwater.

- Regular prescription eyeglasses and regular sunglasses that do not have an ANSI Z87.1 rating are not to be used as substitutes for safety glasses.
- RWU must provide ANSI Z87.1-rated safety glasses to Shellfish Farm Team to use while on the job; Shellfish Farm Team members who have their own personal prescription safety glasses or personal safety glasses may choose to use those, provided they are ANSI Z87.1-rated

Here are several links to different sample safety glasses, manufacturers, and vendors. These sample listings are not approved lists or endorsed lists, but are provided as examples of acceptable glasses. *Note that "OTG" indicates "Over-the-Glasses" style, meaning they can be worn over a pair of prescription eyeglasses.*

Sample Clear

[CONDOR Frameless 4EY97](#) (clear lens)

OTG [PYRAMEX OTG S3510STJ](#) (clear lens)

Sample Tinted (Sunglasses-Style)

[RADIANS Frameless](#) (gray lens)

[CONDOR Anti-Fog Anti-Scratch](#) (gray lens)

OTG [RADIANS Chief Overspec OTG 360-S](#) (smoke lens)

Sample Tinted and Polarized (Sunglasses-Style)

[KLEENGUARD 28637](#) (brown lens)

[KLEENGUARD 28635](#) (gray lens)

[EDGE Eyewear TSDK415](#) (amber lens)

[BOLLE Komet PSSKOME01](#) (smoke lens)

Safety Glasses Use, Storage, and Care

- Store with the side/ear pieces folded closed in a cool, dry, location out of direct sunlight, water, and chemicals. A glasses case or other dedicated container will help prevent damage and scratches.
- Use a soft cloth to wipe and clean the lenses regularly, particularly before and after use (before placing in storage).
- Visually check for scratches, cracks, loose screws, and other damage prior to use. Do not use damaged safety glasses. Obtain a new pair from your supervisor and throw away the old pair in the regular trash.
- Follow all manufacturer recommendations and guidance.