



# A toolkit for clean ups.



Guide covering everything you need to carry out your own litter pick



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# ***All water leads to the sea***

60% of litter in the River Thames is made up of single use plastics

2 million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day

80% of marine rubbish comes from land-based sources entering the sea via rivers, drains or being blown in by the wind

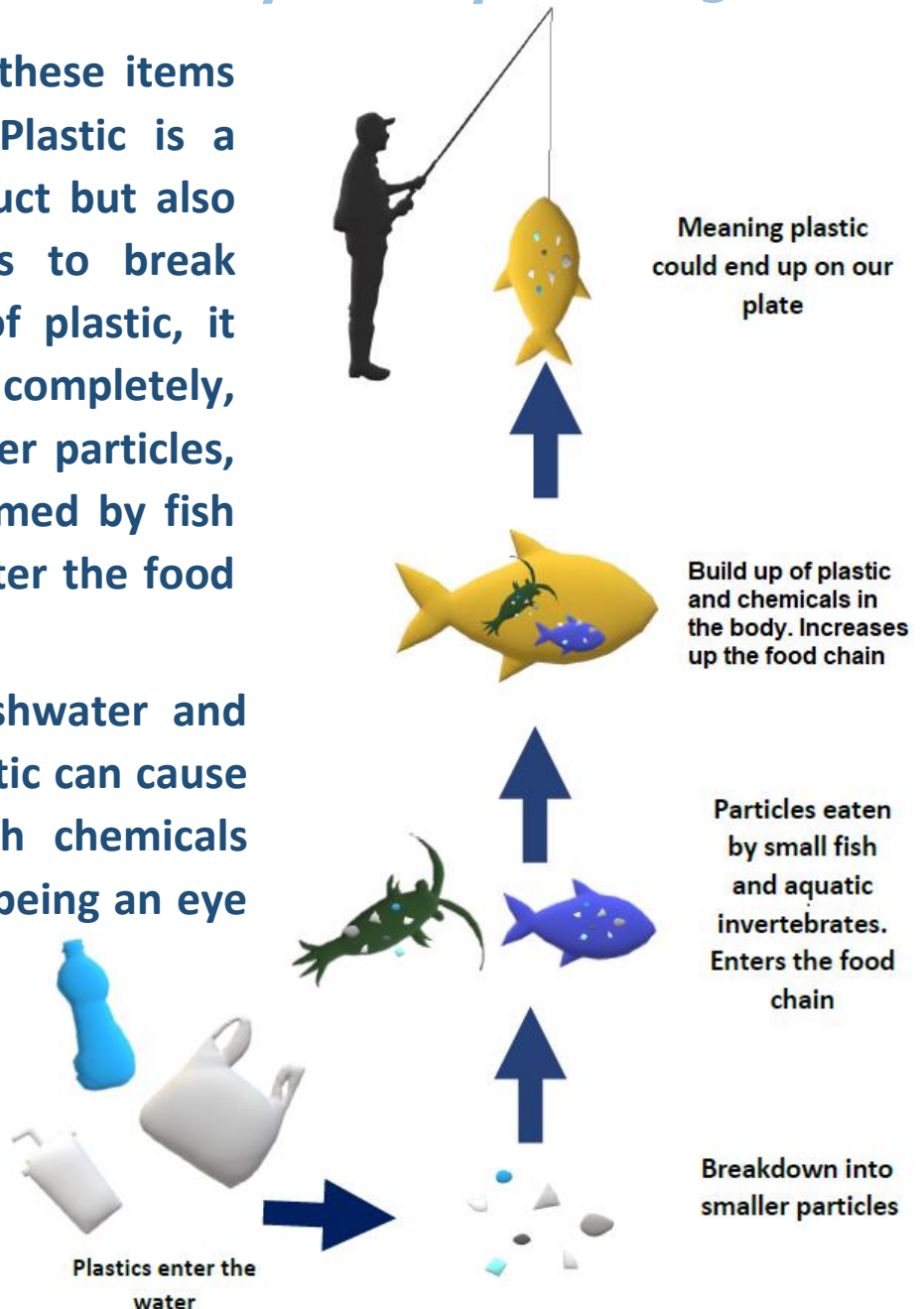


# Litter –the issue

*Litter includes anything from crisp packets, cigarette butts through to discarded barbeques and plastic bags*

The problem is many of these items are made from plastic. Plastic is a cheap and versatile product but also takes hundreds of years to break down. For some forms of plastic, it may not break down completely, rather degrade into smaller particles, which can then be consumed by fish and other wildlife and enter the food chain.

Once present in the freshwater and marine environment, plastic can cause damage to wildlife, leach chemicals into the water as well as being an eye sore.



More work needs to be done to reduce plastic waste and encourage the use of environmentally friendly alternatives. However, we also need to remove litter that is already present in the environment.



# Why organise an #Anglingcleanup



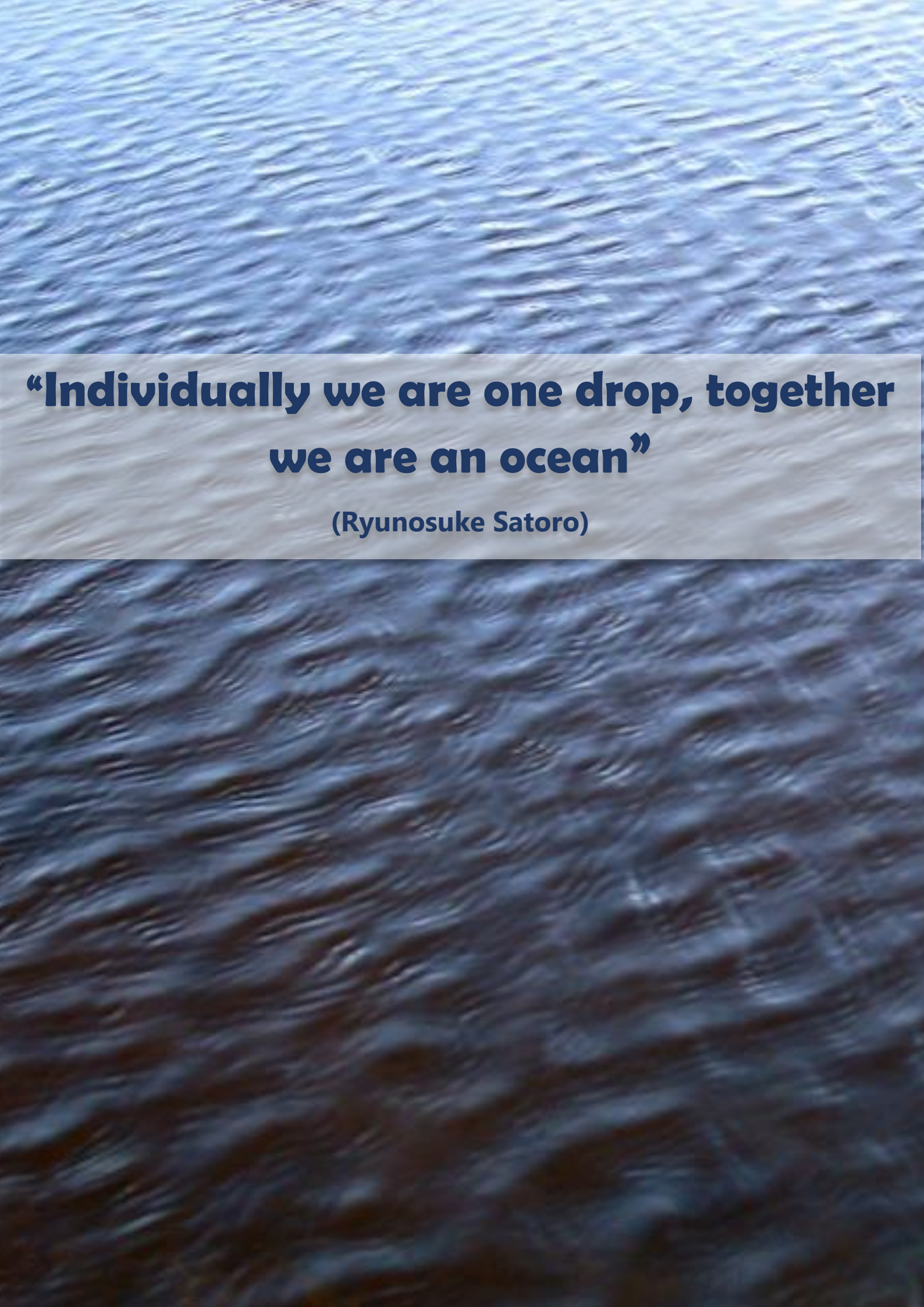
***Together, we can make a huge difference in reducing the amount of litter present in our waterways and help to protect fish and the environment from harm.***

**We care about our environment, and through our action we can:**

-  **Encourage others to do the same and to clean up after themselves**
-  **Reverse the tide on litter pollution**
-  **Protect wildlife and our native fish**
-  **Improve our social health**





The background of the entire image is a close-up, high-angle shot of water. The water surface is covered in a dense pattern of small, concentric ripples, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The colors range from a deep, dark blue in the lower half to a lighter, more vibrant blue in the upper half, where the light reflects off the water's surface. The overall impression is one of vastness and movement.

**“Individually we are one drop, together  
we are an ocean”**

**(Ryunosuke Satoro)**

# How to set up an Angling Clean Up

Before you start your clean up event, here is a checklist of things to do.

1. Appoint a leader to coordinate the clean-up event

2. Decide on a time, location and meeting point

3. Check to see whether you need any permissions to undertake the clean-up event

4. Arrange a litter collection point. Contact your relevant local authority who will be able to assist you in organising a collection point. Alternatively, identify a volunteer that is willing to take collected waste and recyclables to a local recycling centre.

**5. Check whether there are any invasive non-native species at the site on INNS mapper. Follow the Check Clean Dry measures to ensure boots and equipment are clean after the event.**

1) Invasive species present:

2) Check Clean Dry campaign briefing delivered by:

**6. Check you have, or can borrow, all relevant equipment**

*See a check list on page 9. The Angling Trust may also be able to assist in finding equipment you can borrow from organisations in your local area.*

**7. Carry out a risk assessment.**

*There is a template risk assessment you could use at the back of this pack (page 14-15)*

***Angling Trust affiliated fisheries are insured to undertake clean up events as part of the management of their waters.***

Risk assessment completed: YES / NO

**8. Familiarise yourself with the AT Volunteer Best Practice Guide and AT safeguarding policy, particularly when working with children under the age of 18.**

Read policy: YES / NO

**Finally, do not forget to promote your event (see page 16).**



# Equipment checklist



## Bags

To collect the litter that we find. If you are collecting water directly from the water, it can also benefit to have some bags with holes to allow water to drain out. This can include onion or carrot bags. You can wash and reuse these bags for other clean up events.



## Litter pickers

These will make it easier to catch each litter caught in difficult places such as down a bank or high up in a tree.



## Protective gloves

Wear gloves throughout the clean up to protect yourself whilst you are handling litter and from Weil's disease.



## A sealable sharp items box

We recommend that you carry a sharps box on you, where you can place items such as fish hooks or broken glass.

However, do not attempt to remove any items which pose a risk to yourself or the other volunteers.

On the small chance you come across a needle, do not attempt to move it. Note its location and report it to your local authority.



## Phone

Having a phone on you is important for safety. It also gives the opportunity to take photographs to share the fantastic work you have done. Although we are doing clean-ups because we care, sharing photographs is a great way to encourage other people to undertake their own.

If you are need of any equipment then please contact [AAL@anglingtrust.net](mailto:AAL@anglingtrust.net) as we may be able to source some equipment you can borrow.



## First aid kit and hand sanitiser

Having a first aid kit at hand will be useful in case of minor incidents during the clean-up. It is essential to use hand sanitiser to protect participants against Weil's disease.

# During the clean up

## Participant sign in.

It is important that you check in and out all the volunteers and obtain their consent for any photographs that might be taken.

## Brief participants before starting the clean up







Before the start of the clean-up undertake a briefing to let the participants know what they are doing, the risks involved and how to keep themselves safe.

## Clean up briefing

- Introduce yourself and any other leaders at the event. Share a contact mobile number should a participant need to get hold of you during the clean-up.
- Use the risk assessment to brief participants on health and safety.
- Delegate tasks where appropriate
- Ensure participants are suitably equipped and ask them to remain in sight of at least one other participant.
- Provide participants with a scheduled meeting time and location for the end of the event



# After the clean up

-  **Count the number of bags of rubbish you have collected**
-  **Chat amongst yourselves about what you found. What were the most unusual and common items you came across?**
-  **Take a photo of your efforts.**
-  **Place the bags in the designated pick up point ready for collection by the council.**
-  **Submit your event to the Angling Trust so we can keep a track on how much rubbish the angling community are collectively removing from the environment.**
-  **Post your findings on social media using the #anglingcleanup and #anglersagainstlitter hashtag and send to your local press (page 16) with a photo of the clean up**

## Lastly a huge thank-you!

Events like these make such a difference to protecting the environment and fish from harm.



# Beyond the Clean up

As well as taking part in clean up events, your fishery and club can make a difference by adopting further practices to reduce plastic waste. This will set a positive example for others to follow:

1. Recycle your old fishing line and spools through the [Anglers National Line Recycling Point \(ANLRS\)](#).

2. Take 5 – after you have finished fishing for the day, spend 5 minutes picking up litter along the beach or bank.

With 1-4million anglers in the UK, if every angler picked up five pieces of litter once a year that would remove an incredible 5-20 million pieces of litter from the environment.

3. Recycle your plastic packaging

4. If you run a club of fishery, is there a way of reducing plastic usage at your water?

For example, if you provide cooking facilities at your fishery you could switch plastic cutlery and polystyrene plates for reusable or bamboo alternatives.

5. Pledge your support to the Angling Trust [‘Anglers Against Litter’](#) campaign.

The more support we have for this action, the greater our voice to call for change to reduce litter pollution.

# Participant sign in form

Date				
Location of clean up				
Club/ fishery name				
Clean up lead name		Clean up lead contact number		
<b>Participant details</b>				
Name	Phone number	Any medical conditions the organiser should be aware of	Emergency contact name	Emergency contact number

## Data protection

We are strongly committed to an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered in this form will only be utilised during this event to ensure the safety of the participant. This data will not be shared with third parties and will not be held beyond this event.

## Photography during the event.

Please note that we may take some photos during the event. These photos will be used for reporting, promoting future events, and sharing the success of the clean-up. This may include posts on social media and sending photographs to the local press. If you do not want your photograph to be taken, stored, or used in this manner please inform the event organiser.

# Risk assessment template

This risk assessment acts as a guide to outline some of the common hazards, risks and control measures that might be encountered whilst undertaking a clean-up event. Due to changing weather and water conditions, ideally this risk assessment should be undertaken on the day of the event prior to it commencing.

Before undertaking a clean-up make sure that you have permission of the landowner.

All participants should be briefed by the leader on the risk assessment before the start of the clean-up.

Date of event	Location	Event Leader

	Hazard	Risk	Suggested control measures	Additional measures
Environment conditions	Weather condition - Cold	Hypothermia	Tell participants to wear appropriate clothing and bring extra layers Review the conditions on the day and be aware of deteriorating conditions	
	Weather condition – Hot	Dehydration, sunburn	Provide sun cream and ask participants to bring water	
	Weather condition – Rain	Slippery surface; slips trips and falls	Ask participants to wear waterproofs and appropriate footwear with good grip	
	Slippery, uneven, or steep terrain	Slips, trips and falls	Ask participants to wear appropriate footwear with good grip	
Tool handling and litter picking	Use of tools: litter pickers	Collision with other users: eye injury	Be aware of other volunteers around the area Work slowly, minimising splashing Keep the end of the tool away from eyes When moving with the tool, keep it pointed at ground height. Leave the tool in a visible, safe location.	
		Tools causing trip hazard	Leave the tool in a visible, safe location that will not cause a trip hazard	
		Balance – risk of falling reaching for hard to reach litter	Do not overreach for litter	
	Heavy bags		Participants are warned not to overfill sacks with rubbish. Participants are informed to carry and move bags with good form	
	Sharp objects or litter (broken glass, metal, cans)	Cuts, punctures, wounds	Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter Instruct participants not to handle any visible needles, to note their location and report them to the local authority.	



			<p>Inform participants to use litter pickers wherever possible to pick up litter</p> <p>Inform participants not to kneel on the ground to avoid cuts or scrapes to the knees.</p> <p>Inform participants of the specific container for sharp items that can be safely removed.</p>	
Contact with the water	<b>Water borne diseases and pollution</b>	Becoming sick or unwell from contact with the water e.g. Weils disease	<p>Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter</p> <p>Use litter pickers to handle litter wherever possible</p> <p>Carry anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and ensure hands are washed before eating</p> <p>Keep hands away from mouth and eyes whilst litter picking</p> <p>Advise participants to cover any cuts and grazes before they start</p> <p>Wash hands thoroughly after the clean up</p> <p>Advise of symptoms to be aware of for Weils disease including but not limited to: fever, chills, headaches, nausea and vomiting.</p> <p>Avoid outlets e.g. storm water overflows</p>	
	<b>Entering the water</b>	Drowning	<p>Where possible undertake the litter picking from the bank.</p> <p>Advice a participant if they are entering the water, to check the depth for silt prior to entry.</p> <p>Inform the participant to inform someone if they plan on entering the water and to only do so in the presence of another individual</p>	
Other users	<b>Conflict</b>	Other water users	<p>Brief the participants to be aware of other water users that might be passing during the event.</p> <p>Where possible, step aside to let them pass</p> <p>If confrontation develops remain calm and summon help as quickly as possible</p>	
Invasive species	<b>Invasive species</b>	Unintentional transfer of invasive species between water bodies	<p>Brief participants on the risk of spreading invasive non-native species to/and from other water courses.</p> <p>Advise participants to follow <a href="#">Check Clean Dry</a> measures before and after the litter pick</p>	
	<b>Other hazards not covered above</b>			

# Press release template

Send this completed template to your local press to let them know about your event.  
Replace the red wording with your specific details and don't forget to attach a photograph to showcase your efforts.

[DATE]

**Press release: For immediate release**

**[Insert name of angling club] removes [insert number] of litter from our waterways.**

A team of [insert] angling members and volunteers spent [e.g. Saturday morning/ four hours] along the [insert river/ beach/ waterway] picking up litter to help to protect native wildlife and environment from harm.

Over [insert number of bags] of litter were collected by anglers during the event, including the usual suspects such as plastic water bottles, cans and fast food packaging, along with some other more unusual items such as [insert item].

Litter pollution presents a major threat to our waterways. Plastic does not biodegrade, instead breaking down into smaller pieces that remain in the environment. Fish and other aquatic animals may mistake these small plastic particles for food, eat it and then plastic enters our food chain. For other forms of litter pollution, animals can easily become entangled or injure themselves, sadly resulting in death in some cases. This litter is often discarded or left on the water bank, or blown in from nearby parks or streets.

Litter picks such as these occur are being undertaken by anglers on a regular basis across the country to help tackle this environmental issue and protect the environment.

[Name, role] from [angling club] who [organised/ took part in] the clean-up said "[insert quote here]".

**ENDS**

**About the Angling Club [optional extra]**

Founded in [insert], [insert name of angling club] is based in [location].

It is primary a [insert] club, and encourages individuals interested in giving angling a go, whatever their age or experience to get in touch.

[insert club website and social media]



**For fish. For fishing. For good.**  
**#anglersagainstlitter**



**<https://anglingtrust.net/>**