

# Pioneer Flyfishing Poland Ltd.

## Risk Assessment for groups fishing the San river, Poland.

<u>Risk or Hazard</u>	<u>Risk level</u> Low /Medium /High	<u>Action to minimise risk</u>
<p><b>Walk to fishing area.</b> Much of the San fishing we use has overgrown and/or muddy banks. Risk of slipping or stumbling.</p>		Care at all times, paying attention to advice of guide(s)
<p><b>Wading</b> San River is a broad river and the wading is generally good, with sand and gravel and small stones being the usual bed, but there are extensive silt beds, large boulders gravel bars with deep water close by, ledges and shelves. There are also scoops in the river bed. There is always the risk of falling in when wading.</p>		Extreme care is recommended, following a briefing on the first day in the lodge or by the river bank. Guides will always notify guests of prevalent wading conditions.
<p><b>Flow rates</b> The flow rate varies considerably, but is only significantly fast when the turbines are open in the tail water section (downstream of the lakes), and during periods of heavy rain and flooding. Risk is then high and there will be no fishing at such high flow rates unless it is from the bank.</p>		Guides will assess river conditions on each day and will advise accordingly. During periods of very fast, dangerous flows, fishing will be from the bank only. Guides may also insist that there will be no fishing whatsoever.
<p><b>Guiding</b> The guides and hosts are either familiar or very familiar with bank and river conditions in each season of the year and location on the river. There will always be a minimum of one guide per group. With large groups (six maximum, plus host), all guests are expected to stay within sight of the guide at all times, particularly when actually in the river. Risk is Medium when out of sight of the guide, or high when the flow rates are high.</p>		Always listen to the advice of the guide and stay within sight and ear-shot of the guide. If the guest drifts out of sight and ear-shot, risk remains high and Pioneer Flyfishing Poland Limited strongly advises against this and will accept no liability whatsoever for any accident or misadventure occurring in such circumstances.

<p><b>Water hazard</b> and risk of drowning</p>		<p>All guests will be offered automatic life vests which can be worn over fishing vests. Guests are strongly advised to use these vests. It may be that our insurers make the use of these vests compulsory, in which case it is entirely the client's own responsibility for any accident occurring which results from lack of use of a life vest. Wading sticks are also strongly recommended.</p>
<p><b>Electric installations</b> Overhead power lines and electrical installations are present in some areas, but are considered beyond casting range.</p>		<p>Guests should observe the proximity of power cables.</p>
<p><b>Health hazards</b> Infective diseases and health hazards in the San area: All the pathogens, viruses etc that are prevalent in the UK are also present in the San River basin, with additional hazards such as a dangerous, potentially-lethal, disease borne by sheep ticks (very few sheep in the area). As with everywhere, rats are present and so the possibility of infection with Weils disease is significant.</p>		<p>All guests are advised to visit their GPs well before travelling in order to be advised and possibly protected against such illnesses. Guides carry a First aid kit. Guests are advised to disinfect small cuts immediately in order to minimise risk from infection by Weils.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife</b> <b>Wild</b> animals live in this area of south-east Europe, including bears, wolves and venomous snakes (adders). Though guests are unlikely to encounter a bear, adders are very common, though their bites are extremely rarely fatal.</p>		<p>Wear protective clothing, never walk barefoot. Keep on the beaten track rather than cross rough ground. Do not approach wild animals.</p>

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<p><b>Insects</b> Insect bites, and bee and wasp stings, are very likely, particularly in June through to early autumn.</p>		<p>Use insect repellents and wear protective clothing. If sensitive to bites, then treat accordingly. If susceptible to allergic reaction then guests are strongly advised from travelling to the San but in any case will be taken to the emergency hospital in Lesko for treatment. This may involve cancelling the day's fishing for the rest of the party.</p>
<p><b>Drivers and pedestrian traffic</b> Driving in Poland is on the right hand side of the road. Some drivers are apparently fairly ungracious with respect to pedestrians. Also, pedestrian crossings are not usually observed as they are in Britain.</p>		<p>Make sure you are looking on the correct side before crossing the road and getting out of a car. Pioneer doesn't take any responsibility when driving your own or hired car during the trip. Take extreme care particularly when crossing a road, even on a pedestrian crossing.</p>
<p><b>Alcohol</b> Poland is known for its high level of alcohol consumption, particularly vodka. A lot of alcohol is fermented and distilled in home and farm stills in rural areas.</p>		<p>Avoid drinking alcohol from unknown sources with strangers. Especially do not participate in any drinking contests. Obviously, Pioneer declines any responsibility for clients' behaviour or injuries during the trip when influenced by alcohol or drugs.</p>
<p><b>Hooks</b> Flies are tied on sharp hooks. All local flies are tied on barbless hooks, but many brought from Britain will be barbed.</p> <p>Hook and line cuts can allow infectious diseases into the body, including Weils.</p>		<p>Always wear a hat and <i>particularly eye protection</i>, and squeeze down any barbs completely (a rule on the San). In case of injury use guide's first aid kit to disinfect.</p>