

Topic #1: Risks

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a. What does risk mean to you regarding your field site?

b. What possible risk(s) could exist and at what stages during your field work?

Physical risks: diving, tools in the field, animals/organisms in the field (such as polar bears), weather, accidents, long hours/exhaustion, sexual harassment and racism \\ Mental risks: power dynamics of a group, cabin fever

Risks: Physical safety - sickness, injury; associated risks of differing locations; interacting with non-PC fisherpeople and other outside individuals; international or remote field work;

Working at night, and working alone were some of the risks we agreed may be harder to overcome than others. Planning and communication are key to mitigating field risks.

Mental/emotional: newness of work/environment, isolated with a few for extended period, communication styles, expectations - what group should do, placing on others based on experiences, fair treatment

Making sure team members are prepared for the fieldwork can set them up to successfully navigate both physical and emotional risk

working in new (unknown) places; potentially with new teams, new hazards, etc.

Physical risks: remote work, slick surfaces or rough terrain, heavy equipment. Interpersonal: animosity toward gov agency employer, encountering armed individuals in isolated areas

how to do this remotely/preemptively? differences in cohort size? How to deal with teams changing in the middle of field work

Power dynamics- Having different levels of experience Physical Risk- far from hospitals, working in remote sites

As leaders we need to think and plan through the "eyes" of our minority students/colleagues

risk is not just physical but psychological and emotional

managing risk assessment across team members at different stages (undergraduates vs graduates) and across different institutions in collaborative field work teams

Risk can vary with what you look like. This can go "both ways" for places all over the world.

Physical risk can be influenced by social risk. People need to feel comfortable where they're working to be safe.

Gender specific- periods for women, sexual harassment Intersectionality, contextual risk- it can change and is different for everyone

Physical/mechanical risks - ATVs, Vessels, Vehicles and Trailers. Social Risks - Gender, Race, Religion. Animal - bites, stings and attacks.

working with diverse teams (different employers) can come with different rules/controls from an institutional rules but also our our individual assessments of risks.

also when working on new teams - building a survey to gauge the team members (esp if they are new).

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regular safety risks (physical), fear/emotional risks of individuals, drug/local risks

Physical risks: working alone, hiking, ship - moving platform, newness and learning how to be safe in a new environment, interacting with local communities/cultures (familiarity)

Remembering to have physical maps, plans, etc. in this day and age of relying on phones for everything!

traveling with mostly BIPOC group in white-dominated towns and ensuing negative interactions & micro aggressions

Interactions with the public, who may or may not support either the research being done, or the diversity of the crew members involved. Especially when we are in small, isolated communities, this can be a concern.

Dive Safety: risks at every stage, planning, training, implementation

Physical risks associated with the type of fieldwork: rocky shores, at sea, or working at night.

Risks include: Sexual harassment, bathroom limitations (bladder health/challenging for women during menstruation), food/dietary restrictions, downtime (alcohol use, isolation)

social risks: people can feel excluded when unfamiliar (work experience, life experience) if effort isn't made to include them, community members adjacent to work areas with different philosophies may risk conflict

Harassment based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity from random folks encountered in public, landowners or land managers, etc.

Working alone as a woman on military base

risks are constant, added burden of constant awareness as a vulnerable person in the field

sexual harassment and standing out

tidepooling in the rocky intertidal (slipping, sleeper waves, etc), SCUBA, remote work, group dynamics, sexual harassment, local people acting hostile and violent

Other risks not tied to the physical environment include: travel to field sites in unfamiliar areas, discomfort of working alone, or working with team members of different backgrounds

Types of risk include physical, mental and social. Talking about risk regularly helps to identify and bring these risks to light.

Political differences - rural areas with local hostility toward state/government agencies

The biggest risk in wildlife field work is people that you interact with rather than the animals.

power dynamics in a team or working with locals

managing risk with communication - inreach

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There are physical risks, health risks, equipment risks, but identity risks like harassment, bullying, assault, etc. are not discussed as often, or in as formal of a structure as a operational risk assessment

Risks depend on who is in the field, e.g. my supervisor may not experience the same risks and so we need to talk about how this could be different

SCUBA remote work = safety is very important. some sites can be days away from rescue

Physical risks - Vessel/vehicles/trailers. Animal risks - stings, bites, attacks. Social risks - Gender/Race etc based on external biases

Also "threats" from external people passing by an open public fieldsite - "safety in numbers" when possible helps.

Risk can be physical, cultural, mental, political, etc. Acknowledge personal bias.

Being open to other perspectives other than the lens through which you see the world. Being openminded makes you a good scientist in more than one.

Physical risks, remote working, mental health, assault, group dynamics, cultural differences

Politics of the local area may not align with the scientific research.

Risks come from both external sources AND internal crew dynamics

interactions with local culture- can be good to learn from and work with the community

operational risks in remote settings (sierra meadows, remote reserves)

International collaborations, cultural differences

physical Risks (animals, disease, location, scuba, etc), Legal/social issues (land ownership, hunting season, are you welcomed there?), Gender/identity risks, Group dynamics and structure

People thinking you "aren't supposed to be there", may result in different outcomes depending on identity of the researcher.

Making sure you know which authorities to contact

Uncomfortable or unsafe group dynamics - group leaders can set clear expectations for respect, and be available to receive feedback.

Who to report to when in the field - which authorities to contact

Physical risks (accidents) and interpersonal clashes

Cultural diversity - strength but might also lead to clashes on the basis of different expectations and norms

Environmental risks, trespassing, interpersonal dynamics with crew members, interactions with law enforcement and the general public.

live-aboard or living with people you work with- respect among everyone is necessary

Isolated locations - might not be possible to get out quickly

Physical risks really vary based on the specific field site-heat/dehydration issues, different types of rugged terrains, etc.