



## NSW Spearfishing Safety Action Plan – December 2019

### Introduction

Spearfishing is a popular form of recreational fishing in NSW and is recognised for its selective fishing practices. It is a sport which can be undertaken safely when common sense and responsible practices are adopted. There are a number of fisher (and spearfisher) safety education programs which have been undertaken by various organisations, such as the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Underwater Skindivers and Fishermen's Association (USFA), Australian Underwater Federation (AUF), spearfishing clubs and local Councils.

DPI has developed this action plan in consultation with stakeholders to assist in promoting safe spearfishing practices in NSW. The action plan will help promote safety along the NSW coast, especially in busy metropolitan areas where large numbers of different water users, such as spearfishers, swimmers, snorkellers, divers, surfers and fishers can safely share these common resources.

### Overall aim

The action plan aims to create a coordinated education and safety advisory program to enhance existing education measures and improve public perception of the sport. By developing a cooperative approach to spearfishing safety, the action plan will promote communication and information-sharing between DPI, local Councils, the USFA, AUF, community groups, spearfishers and the general public regarding safe and responsible spearfishing.

### Stakeholder consultation

The action plan has been developed in consultation with the USFA and AUF. Both groups have developed Code of Conducts for Spearfishing. The Codes of Conduct are supported by DPI.

<https://usfa.org.au/codes-of-conduct/>

<https://auf.com.au/blog/publication/auf-code-of-conduct/>

Sub Action	Detail	Organisations	Actions
Spearfishing safety advisory guide	<p>Establish a larger distribution network for safety advisory material to boost reach. This can include spearfishing groups and clubs, retail outlets, fisheries compliance, Councils, council rangers, tourist information and community centres.</p> <p>Area specific targeting for localised issues such as Little Bay.</p>	<p>DPI</p> <p>USFA</p> <p>AUF</p> <p>DPI Compliance</p> <p>Local Councils</p> <p>Local Community Groups</p> <p>Retail Outlets</p>	Expanded distribution to commence December 2019.
Responsible spearfishing signage (Little Bay)	<p>DPI to develop responsible spearfishing signage with key messages.</p> <p>Little Bay sign to be developed in generic style so can be altered for each specific location.</p> <p>Availability to Councils, clubs and organisations.</p>	<p>DPI</p> <p>USFA</p> <p>Local Councils</p>	
Social media and Online promotion of	Facebook posts reminding spearfishers	DPI	

Sub Action	Detail	Organisations	Actions
safe spearfishing practices	<p>of their responsibilities and safe practices.</p> <p>Considering targeted boosts for more reach.</p> <p>USFA and AUF to share on relevant platforms with all associated clubs, pages, organizations, retail stores and media.</p> <p>Info graphic video detailing responsibilities and safe practices similar to ferry wharf fishing video.</p>	<p>USFA</p> <p>AUF</p> <p>Local Councils</p> <p>Clubs</p> <p>Retail outlets</p>	
On-ground advisory	<p>Face to face, on ground advisory activities to provide a local presence by DPI Officers and Fishcare Volunteers.</p> <p>Advisory material to be provided to spearfishers and members of the community. Advice re safe entry points to be provided.</p>	DPI	

## **Acknowledgments**

The NSW Safety Action Plan 2019 is a collaboration between the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Underwater Skindivers Fisherman’s Association (USFA) and Australian Underwater Federation (AUF).

Your Reference number INT19/188246

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