

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW  
"Promoting Sustainable Fishing"



**NEWS BULLETIN 48**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

***Education Through Workshops***  
***Korean Rock Fishing Safety Workshop***

More than 40 Korean-speaking rock fishing anglers participated in a rock fishing safety workshop organised by the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and funded by the NSW Fishing Trust Fund on Saturday 17 June at Freshwater beach, on Sydney's northern beaches.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), Department of Industry and Investment- Fisheries and the NSW Fishcare Volunteers were also on hand to assist on the day.

SLSA also provided each participant with a free lifejacket to wear on the day and take home with them after the workshop.

Stan Konstantaras of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA of NSW) outlined some of the safety gear including different kinds of lifejackets, cleats and rock boots suitable for rock fishing. He also presented the online resources for checking weather and wave forecasts before going rock fishing.

Alex Bellissimo, a seasoned fishing educator and professional rock fishing guide then took the participants on a walk along the rock platform and taught them skills in assessing the wind, weather, wave and location. He also covered how to identify safe spots to fish, the kind of fish you could catch and how to bait up for rock fishing.

Jaegee Choi from Australian-Korean Welfare Association was on hand to provide interpretation from English into Korean for all participants.

After a quick BBQ, participants eagerly went fishing accompanied by Alex Bellissimo and representatives from SLSA, ANSA NSW and the RFA of NSW.

Although the participants did not catch many fish on the day, they took home with them the invaluable knowledge of how to rock fish safely. The most important safety messages included:

1. Never fish in exposed areas during rough seas, find a calmer spot.
2. If someone is washed into the ocean, don't jump in after them.
3. Look for available angel ring life buoy or something that floats.
4. Throw the life buoy or something that floats to the person in the water.
5. Dial 112 or 000 on your mobile phone or go to get help

The above NSW workshop was part of the National Rock Fishing Strategy. It was the fifth in an ongoing campaign, which targeted one of the high risk rock fishing participants. Three workshops were conducted in November 2009 for the Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese rock fishing anglers and one June 2010 to close to 50 Chinese anglers. Another workshop for Vietnamese rock fishing anglers is scheduled in late August 2010 in Port Kembla.

Participants were recruited via [www.safefishing.com.au](http://www.safefishing.com.au) and the Australian-Korean Welfare Association. Each participant was given a free lifejacket, a set of rock cleats and multilingual fishing and safety information from the organisers and Department of Primary Industry – Fisheries.

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