

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”

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PRESS RELEASE – 19th March 2010 (for immediate use)

DANGEROUS ROCKFISHING CONDITIONS ALONG NSW COAST

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW is advising rock fishers and boat users to take extreme caution as large seas are predicted to hit the NSW Coast over the next few days.

The far North Coast of NSW is experiencing dangerous surf conditions with 3.5 meter waves breaking dangerously close in shore as a result of Tropical Cyclone Ului off the QLD coast. Extreme caution is advised, particularly around Bar Crossings. The entire NSW coast will experience rising seas to 2 meters over the weekend and into early next week. A new front is also heading up the coast from the NSW / VIC border, with a S/SW change due on the Sth Coast tonight and will head up the Coast past Newcastle over the weekend. Winds will gust to 30 knots with the front.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance is urging people who are thinking about rock fishing over the next few days to fish in sheltered locations within bays and estuaries or not fish at all.

When rock fishing, The Recreational Fishing Alliance advises people to:

BE SAFE – Know the conditions

- Know the tide and weather
- Never fish alone
- If conditions worsen find a calmer, more sheltered spot – or go home.
- Ask local people for advice
- Fish only in places that you know are safe
- Tell someone where you are
- Spend at least half an hour watching the wind and wave action
- Plan an escape route
- Never turn your back on the sea

BE PREPARED – Take the right gear

- Wear a life jacket
- Wear shoes with non-slip soles
- Wear light clothing
- Carry a mobile phone with you
- Carry a rope and float with you

SURVIVE – Know what to do in the case of an emergency

- Do NOT jump in if someone is washed into the water
- Dial 000 or 112 on your mobile phone or go to get help
- Use a rope or something that floats to rescue the person
- If you're swept in don't panic. Stay calm and swim away from the rocks
- If there's an Angel Ring nearby, know how to use it.

For more information on all fishing safety, including translated material, more fact sheets and free downloads, visit: www.safefishing.com.au

For life threatening emergencies, call 000 immediately.

The RFA of NSW- “PROMOTING SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FISHING”

For more translated material and downloads on rock fishing safety visit

www.safefishing.com.au

RFA of NSW - Member of NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Fund Expenditure Committee -
Member of NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing