

Recreation Fishing Alliance of NSW
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ROCK SAFETY PROGRAM GATHERS MOMENTUM

The Recreational Fishing Alliance Rock Safety Strategy (RSS) aims to promote rock safety amongst the anglers and users of the abundant rock platforms within our community. A significant part of the campaign focuses on non-English speaking background (NESB) anglers. The objective of the RSS is to show that rock fishing is safe, enjoyable and rewarding.

Seminars were held last year with the Chinese community, and yesterday 50 Vietnamese anglers made the trip from Cabramatta, in Sydney's west to a workshop hosted by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Department of Sport and Recreation. The Korean community is scheduled to participate in late October 2005, and further requests have been received from other groups.

The seminars focus on equipping the anglers with the basic tools and knowledge on rock fishing safety, with translators relaying the message. The safety talk and demonstration occurred on location at Nth Maroubra, in Sydney eastern suburbs, then into the hired bus for a short trip to a BBQ lunch and then an afternoon fishing session in the sheltered waters of Botany Bay. Many anglers received a set of complimentary rock cleats and a copy of Trevor Watt's rockfishing safety book. Participants have been asked to fill in a questionnaire that will provide the Recreational Fishing Alliance information on where the NESB community gets its fishing information from and how it wants the message delivered. Information will also be passed on the Angel Ring Program, with specific questions on where the anglers fish and if there is a need for a ring. The location at Nth Maroubra was chosen for the demonstration due to its very close proximity to an angle ring.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance RSS also involves the production of a DVD on rock fishing safety that will be distributed free of charge within the community. The short 10-15 minute DVD will aim to equip anglers with the basic knowledge on rock fishing safety. Football and fishing personality, Andrew-ET- Ettingshausen has offered his support and services during production of the DVD. The DVD will be available by December this year.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance Rock Safety Strategy is supported by the Department of Sport and Recreation and DPI- Fisheries who have made available a impressive amount of resources, including translators, communicators, graphic designers, illustrators and access to the relevant information required to ensure that the rock safety message filters through the community. Funding for the project is via the Trust Fund.

The underlining message for the entire program is **"Don't put your life on the line"**.

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