

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW
"Promoting Sustainable Fishing"

NEWS BULLETIN 34
12th September 2007

PROPOSED SPEARFISHING CLOSURE IN BONDI BAY



The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW understands that the local community has some concerns over public safety in relation to spearfishing activities conducted in the area. Waverly Council has approached NSW DPI and is proposing a closure to all spearfishing in Bondi Bay, from the north head of Bondi, known as Ben Buckler, to the south head of Bondi known as MacKenzie Point.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW would not support any closure to spearfishing in the Bondi Bay area and believes that if the current spearfishing rules and restrictions are correctly adhered to by all spearfishers, then the public should be safe and not concerned.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW sees no reason to increase "No Go Spearfishing Zones", and believes that there has been no increased risk to any user group or the public to warrant more restrictions.

It is hoped that the soon to be released Spearfishing Guide and Voluntary Code of Conduct by NSW Underwater Skindivers & Fisherman's Association will greatly assist and make the many non-club spearfishers aware of the States rules and their responsibilities.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW calls on Waverly Council to provide;

1. Documents and background information that has instigated this proposal,
2. Any evidence or factual reports or data that supports the proposal,
3. And engage the public and recreational fishers in a public consultation process via a proposal paper and publishing the final results.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has started to call submissions with regards to your position relating to the proposed closure of Bondi Bay as above. The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW encourages all Spearfishing Groups, Fishing Clubs and Associations to put in a submission. This extends to all recreational anglers and user groups.

Your submissions should be addressed to;

Via Post:
Recreational Fisheries Management
PO BOX 21
CRONULLA NSW 2230

Via Email:
adam.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au

The ocean is there to share, and no one user group has more or less right to using the natural resource.

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NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

6 September 2007

I am writing to you regarding a proposal for a spearfishing closure in Bondi Bay.

Waverley Council has proposed the implementation of a spearfishing closure in Bondi Bay due to community concerns and public safety. The Council is requesting that all spearfishing activities be prohibited from the north head of Bondi, known as Ben Buckler, to the south head of Bondi known as Mackenzie Point.

Due to the high level usage of this area by a range of user groups and the significant impact of the proposed closure on recreational fishing, NSW DPI is consulting relevant stakeholder groups prior to consideration of the proposal by the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.

This letter is to obtain feedback on your position regarding the proposed closure of Bondi Bay. It would be appreciated if you could provide any comments on the proposal by Waverley Council. Please forward your submission to Recreational Fisheries Management, P.O Box 21 Cronulla NSW 2230 or via email to adam.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Adam Welfare, Fisheries Management Officer, on (02) 9527 8575.

Yours sincerely,

John Diplock
Program Manager, Recreational Fisheries

Fisheries Management
Agriculture and Fisheries Division
P.O Box 21 Cronulla NSW 2230

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