

Rock Fishing Safety and National Parks around Australia: Response to Suridge

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Introduction

On the 9th of January 2008 an angler was forcibly removed from within Booderee National Park (Jervis Bay, NSW South Coast) by park rangers whilst fishing a rock platform on the eastern perimeter of the park. The angler who had climbed into the spot and was an experienced practitioner of land based game (LBG) angling was forced to jump into a boat off the rock platform that was being washed by ocean swell. Federal Police officers on top of the cliff would not allow him to exit back up the cliff and national parks staff in the boat forced him to execute a potentially life threatening maneuver. The angler was accused of leaving the designated tracks to access his fishing spot.

In the ensuing debate played out in the media, Scott Suridge (Booderee Park Manager) claimed that the action was taken to ensure the anglers safety. Many fishing publications, including Fishing World challenged Suridge to respond and defend his actions. Jim Harnwell, editor of Fishing World was most successful in teasing out a few responses from Suridge.

Based on what Suridge has been quoted as saying and correspondence with the park, the Australian National Sportfishing Association challenges these comments.

The response will also be incorporated in a broader based angler submission to the current request for comments on the new Booderee Plan of Management due in 2009.

Media Responses by Suridge

The incident was widely reported in the media and in many instances the park management and Suridge are quoted as saying that angler safety is the motivation for walking track closures that created these defacto exclusion zones for recreational anglers. Suridge responded in the media over the subsequent months after the

event. The first reports started to appear in a matter of days, with the Daily Telegraph in NSW giving the story a significant position within the tabloid.

“An experienced angler has been forcibly removed from a coastal rock-fishing spot in what is believed to be the first incident of its kind in NSW. Federal police and National Parks rangers ordered Nathaniel Bolbizs to jump from the rock platform within Booderee National Park, on the southern headland of Jervis Bay, into a waiting boat, claiming he was in danger of being washed into the sea. Recreational fishing experts claim the demand for Mr Bolbizs to leap into the boat was extremely dangerous and put him at serious risk of being crushed between the vessel and barnacle-covered rocks. Fishing experts believe safety was not the main issue and that the rangers’ real motivation is to stop anglers by closing bush tracks into long-standing fishing spots. It is legal to fish a number of rock platforms within the park— world famous as one of the few places on the planet where big gamefish like marlin and yellowfin tuna can be caught from the shore— but rangers have closed many access tracks. Mr Bolbizs had been fishing at the base of a cliff on January 9 when federal police accompanied by park rangers forced him on to the rocking boat. He was told it was a restricted area and that he would have to leave despite there being no “no-fishing” signage. The boat was moving and it was not stable. I didn’t want to do it but I had no choice. They muscled me and told me to get on the boat and that there would be no arguments, otherwise I would have to pay for a helicopter to come and take me off, Mr Bolbizs, 26. The South Coast concreter has been fishing at the same place every year for the past decade and claims rangers have in the past waved to him during their sea patrols. I am part of an extreme fishing

group and we know the dangers of rock fishing, he said. Australian National Sportfishing Association President Stan Konstantaras said it was unacceptable that an angler had been removed under threat by rangers and police. He could have been crushed between the rocks and the boat, he said. A lot of people want to eradicate recreational fishing; it looks like they are one step closer. Environment Minister Peter Garrett declined to comment on the incident with his office saying he needed to stand at arms length on the issue”

Williams (January 2008)

Following on from that article, the editor of Fishing World Magazine, Jim Harnwell, printed several editorials and responses from Suridge and ANSA.

“Park manager Scott Suridge defended the park's actions by saying access arrangements for visitors to national parks requires careful balancing of the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural values of the park while providing for appropriate use and enjoyment by visitors, including taking reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of visitors (and staff). Recreational fishing is encouraged at appropriate locations in the park and tracks are provided at Moes Rock, Stoney Creek and Steamers, Caves, Bherwerre and Murrays beaches to name a few, Suridge said. The angler who was removed from the rocks told park workers after he was apprehended that he did not walk on regrowth tracks, instead accessing the ledge by traversing the rock edging. There was no signage to indicate no fishing was allowed.

According to Booderee's Suridge, access in the park involves the closing of some tracks, the upgrading of old tracks, or the opening of new tracks. These are common adaptations to access arrangements, generally with a view to maintaining park values, improving the park experience for visitors but sometimes also having due regard to health and safety. It appears the tracks in this instance were informal tracks made by fishers to access rock fishing locations. They are not part of the park's designated track or trail system. Suridge pointed out that many anglers had died fishing ocean rocks and that parks staff and emergency services personnel put their own safety at risk

rescuing anglers who'd fallen or been washed in. These risks are not acceptable in a national park he said. Following commencement of the current park management plan in 2002 it was considered necessary and appropriate to close the informal tracks leading to dangerous locations on the park headlands. The closure was initiated in 2003. Signs in the park inform visitors of the need to walk only on designated tracks and show their locations. Park brochures provide the same information. Regular visitors to the park should be aware of the access arrangements and the need to stay on designated tracks. The action taken by park staff the other day to remove a fisher from a dangerous cliff location by vessel at Devils Elbow was consistent with our safety concerns”. Harnwell (April 2008)

Suridge responded in the June 2008 edition of Fishing World Magazine;

“Booderee National Park sees recreational fishing including rock fishing as an important visitor experience. The park's concern is about particular sites that we believe are very dangerous in terms of access and fishing. This concern is about specific locations where there has been a high incidence of fishers dying or suffering serious injuries (20 deaths in the ten years prior to 1999). In response to this history of major incidents, the park closed access to these specific locations in 1999/2000. The fact that no deaths have occurred since 1999 and since the plan came into effect in 2003 highlights that management actions have been appropriate and for the benefit of park users. We stress that we support recreational fishing as an activity in the park, but not at specific very dangerous locations where we know there have been a series of deaths and/or serious injuries”. (Suridge June 2008)

ANSA was also asked to respond to Suridge's comments. The reliance on outdated and what has been revealed as anecdotal evidence concerned ANSA. The confirmation of deaths within the Park has not been qualified to date and specific details have not been presented to ANSA. Having been working extensively with State and Federal Governments on the issue of investigating the coronial files relating to rock fishing fatalities, the correlation of what Suridge

claims and what we were able to discover concerned ANSA.
Following is the ANSA response.

“ANSA NSW has initiated talks with Park Managers to discuss this issue and the issue of rock fishing safety, but I am a little concerned that Booderee Park Managers are justifying a reduction in the loss of life off the rocks within the Park as a way of legitimising this loss of access. Since ANSA NSW took it upon themselves to manage the Angel Ring program back in 1994 on behalf of the NSW Government 26 documented lives have been saved and the current work we are doing in regards to rockfishing safety within the community is the reason why in 2007 there was a 52% reduction in fishing related deaths. We have participated in many rock fishing safety seminars aimed at non-English speaking communities, have distributed close to 300,000 free translated rockfishing safety DVDs in NSW, parts of Australia and the World and the work we do in rock fishing safety arena within NSW on behalf of the NSW Government and anglers of NSW, dare I say it, puts many government agencies to shame. We do all this on a volunteer basis as well. I would also confidently say the work I do at a Federal level leaves many Federal government agencies well behind, Booderee and Scott included. I don't intend to put Booderee or Scott offside, I have high hopes of working with them in the future, but all Scott and Booderee has done is force the anglers off "their" little patch of rocks. Anglers are dying all around Booderee, but as long as it is not in "their" Park, who cares. As long as the statistics used in spin doctoring look impressive, that's all that matters. This is a very shallow and cheap claim to make and insults the 1000's of man hours we all put in as volunteers. The best outcome for all anglers within Booderee is to have Scott and his team educate the anglers who fish the rocks within the Park and better equip them to fish in other locations across NSW, removing angel rings and forcibly removing anglers only shifts these anglers to unsafe areas adjacent to the Park and makes Scott's bottom line look better. I wonder how many anglers have died fishing the rocks since 2003 used to fish in Booderee NP.

I bet that would not be a zero statistic. That is what I would be concerned with if I was Scott or Peter Garrett, how many chances they have missed to educate these transient anglers and perhaps save their lives. That puts it into a better perspective instead of trying to pull the wool over our eyes”.
(Konstantaras 2008)

Apart from the various email correspondence with park rangers, the aforementioned responses are indicative of the main media coverage relating to the January 9th 2008 incident.

Deaths Attributed To Rock Fishing In NSW and Australia

Its is not the intention of ANSA to gloss over the risk of fishing , like any other sport when participants are equipped to manage the risks and educated to evaluate the various scenarios that may present over a days fishing it is perfectly safe. Rock fishing is no different. No accurate figures are available to give an indication of how many anglers actually fish the rocks, however the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey completed in 2003 states that during the 12 months of the survey, 3.36 million Australians, aged five and over, went recreational fishing at least once, giving a national participation rate of 19.5%, representing 24.4% of all Australian households.

Rock fishing is a highly popular past time that many enjoy around the nation daily. Of 462 drownings analysed over the 2004 to 2008 period, 40 (approx. 8.7%) of those have been linked to rock fishing. It is suspected a number of others in the rock/cliff related category have also been attributed to the sport. The accessibility to the highest fatality groups is also an ongoing issue. A high proportion of foreign nationals whether by nationality or original place of birth and primarily from Asian countries including China, Korea and Vietnam are over represented in the data. The methods of accessing and presenting safety messages to these target audiences are challenged by the difficulty to narrow down the best place to do so and overcoming the language barriers. Findings of the 'investigation into the coronial files of rock

fishing fatalities that have occurred in NSW between 1992 and 2000 show that of 74 fatalities almost 88% were Australian residents and 31% were Australian by origination. The data set also shows 49% were from the north Asian region specifically China, Korea and Vietnam. These findings are consistent with national SLSA data for the 2004-2008 periods. Of the 40 fatalities attributed to rock fishing, 12 were born in Australia, 4 China, 4 Korea and 2 Hong Kong. There were however 15 out of the 40 unknown. According to the same data set, the local government areas with the highest rock fishing fatalities in NSW were Randwick (4), Sutherland (3), Gosford (3) and Manly, Wollongong and Warringah each had 2. This is consistent with prior year data from the coronial investigation in NSW. In other states, Bass Coast in Victoria had 4 fatalities over the 2004-2008 periods. Western Australia also has a cluster along the outer Perth city coastline with one fatality in Cottesloe, Joondalup and Stirling each over the same period. (Thompson 2008)

When ANSA asked the Park to quantify the statistics Suridge quoted as a way of possibly updating the data sets they have available and further analysing rock fishing attributed deaths within the Park, the response was not what they expected.

Park management's response to a request for qualifying data is indicated below;

"An incident data base was established in Booderee National Park in 2002. Prior to this time, rescue services were provided by Australian Federal Police based at Jervis Bay and the NSW Ambulance Service. Detailed records would have been maintained by those agencies and the relevant Coroner's Courts. Prior to the closure of informal cliff-top tracks in 2002/03, colloquial reporting suggests that 17 deaths occurred in the Park in the previous 10 to 15 years. A former Officer-in-Charge of police at JBT, recently provided advice that between 1986 and 2000, the AFP attended 44 incidents where people fell off cliffs in the Jervis Bay area. In those 44 incidents, 23 people died. It is not known how many of those incidents occurred in Booderee National Park. In a report entitled

Jervis Bay National Park Management Review prepared in 1992, the authors, I. Weir and A. Heislars, note that 'During 1990, fatalities from accidents along cliffs and rocks totalled 12'. It is likely that some of these fatalities occurred outside of the Park. Since establishment of the incident data base at Booderee National Park, only one incident of a visitor falling off a cliff has been recorded. In this case, in June 2004, a fisherman, who had illegally accessed an area closed to the public, was rescued by the Coastal Patrol". (Sharp 2008)

ANSA is only aware of 2 data sets that have been completed that investigate the coronial files relating to rock fishing fatalities in NSW and Australia, **Investigation into the Coronial Files of Rock Fishing Fatalities That Have Occurred in NSW between 1992 and 2000 (September 2003) Matthew Jones** and a **Rock Fishing Campaign Document** produced by **National Board of Surf Life Saving (July 2008) Matthew Thompson**. Another investigation has been funded and is currently being prepared to update the Jones report from 2000 – 2008. This is being undertaken by Royal Life Saving with ANSA participating on the project.

It is interesting to note that Jones (2003) specifies 5 deaths attributed to rock fishing in the Jervis Bay area between 1992 and 2000, yet in 1990 Weir and Heislars (1992) attribute 12 deaths along cliffs and rocks during that year alone. Further clarification is needed from Park managers to explain how many were actually fishing. Thompson (2008) from SLS has no reported incidents for the Shoalhaven LGA between 2004 and 2008. As recently as November 21st 2008 another death attributable to rockfishing was reported in the media and further investigation revealed that the angler had jumped in fully clothed to retrieve a dropped fishing rod. This incident, however tragic should have been reported as a drowning. Taking creative licence I could also "colloquially report" that more people have died in car accidents driving to Booderee National Park than fishing the rocks.

Rock Fishing Safety Initiatives around Australia

Angel Rings

Angel Rings are life buoys installed at popular ocean rock fishing spots along the NSW coastline. If an angler falls in and someone can access an angel ring, it is designed to keep the victim afloat and allows the person to swim away from the rocks until help arrives or a rescue can be organised. In 1993 an angler's life was saved at Moe's Rock, Jervis Bay by a ship style life buoy installed by a bereaved father who lost a son rock fishing at an earlier date. Consequently the Department of Sport Recreation and Racing (DSRR) formed a working group in 1993 to look at rock fishing safety and this rescue event at Moe's Rock. DSRR provided a grant of \$30K to the NSW Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (RFAC) to implement more angel ring style installations. Since 1994 ANSA has managed project, installing 81 angel rings in known rockfishing spots and participating in community education and awareness programs. 28 documented lives have been saved. In 2007 ANSA installed 8 rings in SE Victoria as part of an Angel Ring Pilot Project in conjunction with Lifesaving Victoria and Parks Victoria. In 2008 ANSA assisted in developing an application for a pilot project in Tasmania. In 2008 ANSA also provided technical assistance and samples to Auckland Park Rangers to establish an Angel Ring Pilot Project in New Zealand which will commence in December 2008.

Angel Rings in National Parks within NSW

Currently ANSA has 8 angel rings located within National Parks across NSW, with Munmorah State Conservation Area, Botany Bay NP, Royal NP and Merroo NP all enjoying a close working relationship with ANSA. ANSA also manages another 5 rings located within Munmorah SCA and provides spares rings to park rangers for rings they have installed themselves. To date 10 new rings have been supplied to Munmorah SCA rangers at no cost. ANSA currently has 14 applications for new rings being assessed by NPWS in NSW for additional rings in various NP. It is interesting to note that the majority of these applications have been initiated by the relevant NSW park managers and rangers.

Angel Rings in National Parks within Victoria

In 2007, after almost 16 months of planning that included consultation with Parks Victoria, Life Saving Victoria, Victoria Police, ANSA National, ANSA NSW, ANSA VIC and funding sourced from ESSO and the Victorian Fishing Licence Trust, 8 Angel Ring Life Buoys were installed at popular fishing spots at Wilson's Promontory and the Bass Coast near Phillip Is. The spots selected have had fatalities associated with rock fishing in the past. One of the biggest obstacles faced by the planning team was access to the spots, with long walks and goat tracks down cliffs to get to these locations. With the assistance of Parks Victoria Rangers who led the way during the entire process it progressed as planned. The pilot project at these locations is expected to run for 2 years. The locations selected had a history of rock fishing fatalities, with Thompson (2008) attributing 4 deaths within the Bass Coast and Wilson Promontory NP during 2005 and 2006.

What is encouraging for ANSA is that since the installation of the rings in 2007, no fatalities have been recorded at these locations, but more importantly there has been no loss of access for recreational anglers. It has also been known for a long time that even though we can only lay claim to documented rescues, rescues are occurring without being reported. Most times the angler shrugs it off and goes back to fishing or packs up and goes home. Eye witnesses have reported instances in Royal National Park south of Sydney where this has happened a few times.

Angel Rings in Booderee

Following is the prescribed section of the BNPMP 2003 that relates to angel rings:

7.6.5

The management of rock fishing will be reviewed during the first year of this Plan. The Director will close access to dangerous sites in the light of current knowledge and subsequent experience. Safety buoys, except at Moes Rock, will be removed to avoid the appearance of approval or encouragement of rock fishing. Moes Rock is readily accessible to the public whereas the other safety buoys are not legally accessible through the Park.

To date park managers have failed to contact ANSA to either return the removed rings or discuss rock fishing safety within the park, instead relying on the often quoted and uninformed logic that the rings promote rock fishing and therefore encourage unsafe participation in the sport. The Parks Victoria Pilot Project clearly reveals that safe fishing can occur at selected locations. The current knowledge and subsequent experience that ANSA has brought to the forefront continues to be ignored by BNP managers. Surridge especially goes to great lengths to tell us his actions have been appropriate.

Angel Ring Resource Material

ANSA has distributed close to 100,000 translated multilingual angel ring brochures across NSW. By early 2009 ANSA will have participated in a distribution of 600,000 + translated angel ring adverts in the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 NSW Recreational Fishing Guides. ANSA has participated in a fishing safety project in conjunction with NSW DPI and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA of NSW). It has a presence on the RFA of NSW rock fishing safety DVD that is subtitled in 4 languages. To date almost 300,000 free copies have been distributed around the world. Most of this resource material is displayed around NSW via a dedicated Angel Ring display trailer.

Police Angel Ring Project

ANSA is currently funding and implementing a program that has provided 150 angel rings to be stored in first response Police Cars and Local Area Commands within NSW. As a first 000 response, Police often turn up to reports of anglers in the water with little or no flotation aids. After 2 years of planning that included staff from the Marine Area Command, the Commissioners Inspectorate, Police Union and the Coroners Office in NSW the project is being rolled out. Apart from the Standard Operating Procedures developed for the program by ANSA and the Police, ANSA also produced a training DVD for the Police that included participation by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Marine Area Command, Surf Life Saving, Royal Volunteer Coastguard and local fishing clubs. The entire project was funded by ANSA.

Angel Rings continue to be well received within the community and ANSA acknowledges that they are not the solution to rock fishing fatalities. They are merely tools to help anglers who may get into trouble due to a lack of understanding or being linguistically challenged. ANSA and other like minded bodies spend a large proportion of their time and efforts on educating recreational anglers and giving them the tools to fish safely. If anglers get into trouble then the rings, if available have proven themselves in most instances to be life savers. Surridge dwells on the deaths, ANSA focuses on the rescues.

Conclusions

It is not the intention of ANSA to further criticise Surridge or Booderee National Park Management, rather work with them to allow recreational anglers to fish historically accessed rock platforms within the park in a safe manner. It is ANSA's underlying intention that these anglers fish safely within this and other parks across Australia and relive these experiences with their friends and families. At the time of the incident and the subsequent media exposure, ANSA concluded that whilst park managers were entitled to their opinions, the work the Association undertakes should not go unnoticed. There is no denying that locking up a national park will make it safer and some park managers look at this as an effective management tool. The planning and consideration shown by park rangers in NSW and Victoria is a perfect example of how a system of checks and balances works in ensuring safe access to the park for recreational anglers. Government and non-government partnerships in the area of rock fishing safety are successful in addressing the access issue. It would be irresponsible for ANSA to claim that free and unrestricted access to all rock platforms within National Parks is their agenda.

Listed below are recommendations that ANSA would like to see eventuate before the new management plan is implemented;

1. ANSA and Park Management meet to discuss how best to address the issue of fishing education and safety for the

anglers who currently legally land based fish BNP, including but not limited to spots such as Moes Rock, Stoney Creek and Steamers, Caves, Bherwerre and Murray's beaches.

2. ANSA and their representative clubs meet with Park management to discuss conducting an audit of historically accessed land based fishing locations within the park. This audit can include but is not limited to spots that are officially and unofficially recognised by park managers such as the following;

- Devils Elbow
- Snapper Point
- Governor Head
- Brocks Rock
- Black Rock
- St George Head
- The Wall
- The Cave
- Paradise Rock
- Cape St George
- Green Rock
- Lighthouse Point
- Wallaby Rock
- The Crack

3. Following on from this audit, ANSA and park managers meet on site to determine accessibility to these spots. A risk assessment matrix will be developed by ANSA to categorise the risk in accessing these spots based on the OHS documentation used by the Angel Ring installation teams across Australia when installing angel rings on rock platforms. It is ANSA's prerogative that the safety of its anglers who participate in installing angel rings are at the forefront of any application or site being considered for angel rings.
4. When the audit is complete ANSA and park managers meet to determine low or negligible risk sites and assess their suitability for angel rings and angler access.
5. When these low risk and safe sites are identified it is imperative that ANSA

recognise access by the general public to the cliff edges as an influencing factor. Fatalities and accidents from cliffs make up a major part of the incident database accessed by park managers based on the information they have provided. Many of these locations are conducive to being turned into viewing platforms or lookouts. Most local government areas and national parks already provide this service; a few additional locations within Booderee can be included in the "park experience". These locations can easily give access to anglers via gullies and culverts adjacent to them and onto the rock platforms below.

It is through additional consultation with park managers that ANSA hopes to open up access to some of these safer and historically accessed spots within the park. The shift of effort as a result of these defacto exclusion zones is one that park managers need to be mindful of. ANSA is of the opinion that the descions by park managers to perpetuate this shift of effort by anglers who fish the rocks in BNP has resulted in the significant loss of opportunity to better educate these anglers and potentially force them into even more dangerous situations. Historically only a small group of dedicated and often self managed and regulated brotherhood of anglers fish these locations, many of which are ANSA members. The shift of effort due to the closure of many spots within Jervis Bay Marine Park and Beecroft Peninsular has seen many dedicated ANSA members making the additional 1 hour trip around the Bay due to overcrowding at iconic spots like The Tubes and closures to other well known spots like The Docks, The Inner Tubes, Devils Gorge and The Drum on the northern side of Jervis Bay. If there are 15 locations in the world that anglers can catch marlin and tuna off the rocks, Jervis Bay Marine Park and Booderee National Park contain 14 of them collectively, and all but one is "legally" accessable, The Outer Tubes. Moes Rock was the catalyst for the creation of the angel ring program that has seen 28 anglers survive the ordeal of being washed in off the rocks. There are similar spots within BNP that can be safely accessed and with the ability to have these silent sentinels stand guard.

About The Author

For the past 10 years I have volunteered my time to coordinate and implement angler safety education programs in NSW and Australia. I work on a daily basis with state and federal government agencies. I coordinate the Angel Ring program which has installed 81 life buoys at selected rock fishing spots in NSW. I have coordinated the installation of these rings into Victoria; I am also working on Tasmania and have been invited to NZ in December after we coordinated their trial in Auckland. We have 28 documented lives saved under this project alone. The operational cost of this project is nearing \$150,000. I have also focused and educating the non-english speaking anglers of NSW, conducting workshops for Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese anglers. I have also project managed the highly successful Rockfishing Safety DVD, which has distributed close to 300,000 free DVDs into the community. My non-english speaking projects total close to \$150,000. I have also funded the placement of Angel Rings into NSW police cars to assist the Police as a first response to any incident that occurs near the water. This project was possible due to the support of the NSW Coroner. I have participated in an international water safety conference in Portugal and recently our resource material was on its way to the USA with one of my committee members for another conference. The associations I represent are multiple award winners in the NSW Sports Safety Awards for outstanding implementation or adoption of safe sport practices. I also have many commendations to my name, including Australia Day Awards specifically relating to anglers safety. Recently I was short listed into the top 3 nominations for Volunteer of the Year at the National Recfish Awards, primarily for my safety work with recreational anglers. I also sit on the Australian Water Safety Council. I am also project managing

the production of another 3 safety DVDs for free distribution within the community, including boating safety, saltwater and freshwater fishing safety. This project has been funded to the tune of \$100,000. Currently I am raising funds to complete a national media campaign that will target non-english anglers who fish the rock and are over represented in the drowning statistics. My plan is to place translated adverts in 7 Vietnamese, 5 Korean, 9 Chinese and 2 Sudanese nationally published newspapers with a total circulation of 240,000. I have also selected 6 Cantonese, 3 Korean, 9 Vietnamese and 6 Sudanese radio stations that will deliver a total of 180 x 30 second translated radio spots across the country. The cost of this project is approximately \$22,000.00 for one weeks advertising. To date I have raised 50% of the funds required. I have successfully applied or raised close to \$500,000 of funding focusing on fishing safety over the past few years. I do this as a volunteer while maintaining a regular job to ensure the anglers of NSW and Australia are safe when they fish.

Acknowledgements

I thank all the clubs and members of ANSA for their continued support in making angler safety the number one priority for the association; the Angel Ring Team who traverse from the QLD border to Tasmania keeping the program running; M Thompson for providing updated coronial file data; M Jones whose pioneering project that investigated the coronial files from 1992-2000 provided the template on how best to deliver the rock safety message; J Harnwell who kept the fire burning on the eviction of the angler from Booderree; D Kanak and K Booth from Safewaters for the involvement with most of the fishing safety projects we run and NSW DPI, DAFF and the NSW Trust for funding most of the projects we have initiated over the years.



Angel Rings in Wilson's Prom NP, Victoria



Simulated rescue for DVD



Some of the Angel Ring Team



Members of the marine area command with their unique angle rings



DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

ANSA NSW AND THE ANGEL RING PROJECT

Since 1994 ANSA NSW has installed 80 angel rings at dangerous rockfishing locations in NSW and is looking for new volunteers to help them across NSW

✓ WEAR LIGHT CLOTHES AND NEVER FISH ALONE

穿輕便服裝・千萬不要單獨釣魚
Mặc quần áo nhẹ và không bao giờ câu cá một mình
가벼운 의복을 착용 하고, 홀대로 혼자서 낚시 하지 않습니다.

✓ LIFE VEST IS BEST
救生衣最安全
Áo phao là tốt nhất
구명조끼가 가장 좋습니다.

✓ WEAR THE CORRECT FOOTWEAR - NON SLIP SOLES
穿合適的鞋—帶防滑鞋底的鞋
Mang giày thích hợp – gót giày không trơn trượt
올바른 신발을 착용하세요 - 미끄럼 방지 앞창 부착 신발

Look for available angel ring, life buoy or something that floats

Throw the life buoy, or something that floats, to the person in the water

Dial 112 on your mobile phone or go to get help.

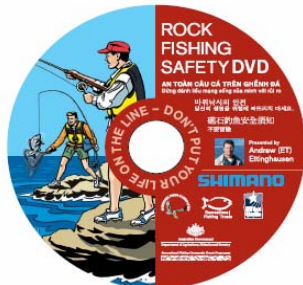
Emergency Numbers

Mobile 112
 Landline 000

ALWAYS check weather conditions and tides before going rock fishing

GOT A NEW ANGEL RING LOCATION?
Let ANSA NSW know and we will investigate;
Phone **1800 079 009** OR WRITE TO US AT
PO Box 328 Murrumbidgee NSW 2536
www.angelrings.com.au

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Recreational Fishing Community Grant Programme



Resource material and adverts used to promote rock fishing safety, including the angel ring trailer

