

Ocean Haul Fishery Code of Practice

1. Be aware of any changes made to the NSW Ocean Hauling Fishery Code of Practice and to legislation governing the fishery.
2. Be aware of and comply with all legislation including closures.
3. Obtain permissions and comply with any fishing ground access agreements.
4. Ensure true and accurate records of fishing and catch effort are maintained and submitted in accordance with the legislation.
5. Use gear in accordance with the legislation.
6. Not allow unauthorised persons to assist in my fishing operation.
7. Minimise the use of hauling nets over areas of seagrass.
8. Only take permitted species of fish. A haul shot must be made up of at least 80% of target or conditional target species.
9. Comply with all size limits as set out in the regulations.
10. Ensure only lawful implements are used to sort catches.

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11. Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times, and in a manner that minimises the potential for interaction with protected or threatened species, populations or ecological communities.
12. Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times, and in a manner that minimises levels of bycatch.
13. Ensure any captured individual of a protected or threatened species is returned to the water as quickly as possible and with the least possible harm.
14. Ensure any interactions with Threatened, Endangered or Protected species are recorded in catch and effort logbooks.
15. Ensure that all fish landed for sale are marketed in an authorised manner.
16. Comply with the requirements of the NSW Food Authority regarding the handling, icing, storage and transport of catches, to maximise quality and minimise food safety hazards.
17. Comply with requirements of the NSW Food Authority to have a Food Safety Plan in place to minimise food safety hazards associated with the harvest of seafood for human consumption.

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18. When travelling or engaging in commercial fishing on ocean beaches, clearly and legibly display the number corresponding to the fishing business associated with the fishing operation.
19. Produce fishing business card upon the request of a fisheries officer, or other professional fisher to determine priority rights.
20. Recognise and adhere to the priority rights (regulated or otherwise) among professional fishers.
21. Be courteous to other waterway users when exercising priority rights.
22. Be familiar with the list of, and methods of identifying, protected and threatened species, populations and ecological communities that might be encountered during fishing operations.
23. Comply with the by-laws and regulations of relevant local Councils and State Government authorities.
24. Use equipment or methods to ensure the least possible harm to any non-retained catches returned to the water.
25. Conduct fishing operations, and maintain fishing boats and vehicles, in a manner that minimises environmental impacts.

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26. Inform the relevant authority of any significant pollution incident or other that may result in negative environmental impact.
27. Minimise use of vehicles on storm damaged or sensitive dune areas where temporary closures are proposed.
28. Whilst driving on beaches, abide by designated speed limits and reduce speed when in close proximity to other beach users or flagged areas.
29. Not shoot my nets within 100m or other agreed distances of flagged bathing areas or so as to surround persons swimming or engaged in other water activities.
30. Assist with ongoing reviews of the Ocean Hauling Fishery Code of Practice and discuss amongst industry and networks.
31. Conduct fishing operations in a way that minimises disturbance to nesting and feeding sites of migratory and resident shorebirds.
32. Responsibly dispose of any litter including derelict fishing gear, either generated by or collected in fishing operations.
33. Work with local Councils to signpost entry and exit points used to access fishing grounds.

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34. Act professionally with any public official, other resource users or members of the community.
35. Ensure my actions do not bring the industry into disrepute.
36. Ensure fishing operations are conducted in a safe manner for fishers and the public, including sufficient insurance cover.
37. Minimise disturbance to the community, e.g. from the use of artificial lighting.
38. Minimise noise associated with fishing operations, especially between 10pm and 5am.
39. Respect the public amenity of boat ramps by avoiding cleaning fish and gear in their vicinity and ensuring that access for other users is not unduly restricted.
40. Be aware of and respect the customs of the Aboriginal people.
41. Be pro-active, cooperate and assist any fisheries related research, development and extension programs.
42. Be proactive and participate in programs that help to develop training and skills, with a view to improve implementation and extension of the Ocean Haul Fishery Code of Practice.