

# Ocean Trap and Line Code of Practice

1. Be familiar and comply with the [rules and regulations](#) that apply to the fishery, and all [area closures](#) and [general closures](#)
2. Be familiar with and comply with the NSW OTLC, keep a copy onboard for reference.
3. Be aware of any [changes](#) made to the legislation governing the fishery or Code of Practice.
4. Ensure that true and [accurate](#) records of fishing and [catch effort](#) are maintained and submitted on a monthly basis in accordance with the legislation, or using [FisherMobile \(smart phone reporting App\)](#).
5. [Use gear](#) in accordance with the legislation.
6. Obtain permissions and comply with any fishing ground access agreements.
7. Allow only unauthorised persons to [assist in my fishing operations](#).
8. [Only retain](#) permitted species and adhere to any species specific trip limits

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9. Comply with all size limits as set out in the regulations.
10. Recognise and abide by the priority rights (regulated or otherwise) among commercial fishermen.
11. Comply with the by-laws and regulations of relevant local Councils and State Government authorities.
12. Ensure fishing operations are conducted with an acceptable level of safety for fishermen and the community, including a safety management system and sufficient insurance cover.
13. 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.
14. Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times, and in a manner that minimises the potential for interaction with protected or threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

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15. 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.
16. Ensure any interactions with Threatened, Endangered or Protected species are recorded in catch and effort logbooks.
17. Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times, and in a manner, that minimises levels of bycatch.
18. Use equipment or practices that ensure the least possible harm to any non-retained catches returned to the water.
19. Ensure only lawful implements are used to sort catches.
20. 20. 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.

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21. Operate according to a prescribed Food Safety Plan or other guidelines that minimises food safety hazards associated with the harvest of seafood for human consumption.
22. Ensure that all fish landed for sale are marketed in an authorised manner.
23. Produce fishing business card upon the request of a fisheries officer, or other professional fisher to determine priority rights.
24. Report the loss and recovery of any traps or other fishing gear.
25. Inform the relevant authority of any significant pollution incident or environmental impact.
26. Conduct fishing operations, and maintain fishing vessels and vehicles, in a manner that minimises environmental impacts.
27. All litter and derelict fishing gear, generated or collected during fishing operations is responsibly stowed onboard and disposed of using onshore facilities.

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28. Notify the department if major fish mortality events or disease outbreaks are sighted.
29. Ensure my actions do not bring the industry into disrepute.
30. Act professionally with any public official, other resource users or member of the community.
31. Act professionally when exercising priority rights.
32. Minimise noise associated with fishing operations, especially between 10pm and 5am in the vicinity of residential areas.
33. 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 duly restricted.
34. Be aware of and respect the customs of the Aboriginal people.
35. Assist maritime rescue operations where appropriate.



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36. Be pro-active, cooperate and assist with fisheries related research, development and extension programs.
37. Assist in requests to assist maritime search and rescue operations.
38. Participate in activities designed to improve community awareness of the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery commitment to responsible and sustainable use of fisheries resources.
39. Assist with ongoing reviews of the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery Code of Practice.
40. Maintain records of personal training and education competencies.
41. Be proactive and participate in programs that help to develop training and skills where appropriate, and to assist implementation of the Ocean Trap and Line Code of Practice.