

NSW Ocean Haul Fishery Code of Practice



OceanWatch Master Fisherman Training
Ocean Haul Fishery Code of Practice

NSW OHF CoP - Regulations

1. Be aware of and comply with all legislation or beach closures.
2. 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.
3. Comply with the by-laws and regulations of relevant local Councils and State Government authorities.
4. Obtain permissions and comply with any fishing ground access agreements.
5. Not allow unauthorised persons to assist in my fishing operation.
6. Use gear in accordance with the legislation.



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NSW OHF CoP – Threatened species

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Conduct fishing operations in a way that minimises disturbance to nesting and feeding sites of migratory and resident shorebirds.
10. 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.
11. Ensure any interactions with Threatened, Endangered or Protected species are recorded in catch and effort logbooks.



NSW OHF CoP - Bycatch

12. Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times, and in a manner that minimises levels of bycatch.
13. Comply with all size limits as set out in the regulations.
14. Only take permitted species of fish.
15. Use equipment or methods to ensure the least possible harm to any non-retained catches returned to the water.
16. Ensure only lawful implements are used to sort catches.



NSW OHF CoP – Food safety and quality

17. Comply with the requirements of the NSW Food Authority to minimise food safety hazards.
18. Use best practice handling, icing, storage and transport of catches to maximise quality.
19. Ensure that all fish landed for sale are marketed in an authorised manner.
20. Ensure true and accurate records of fishing and catch effort are maintained and submitted in accordance with the legislation.



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NSW OHF CoP – Respect

21. Ensure my actions do not bring the industry into disrepute.
22. Act professionally with any public official, other resource users or members of the community.
23. Be aware of and respect the customs of the Aboriginal people.
24. Recognise and adhere to the priority rights (regulated or otherwise) among professional fishers.
25. Produce fishing business card upon the request of a fisheries officer, or other professional fisher to determine priority rights.
26. Be courteous to other waterway users when exercising priority rights.



NSW OHF CoP – Respect

- 27. Minimise disturbance to the community, e.g. from the use of artificial lighting.**
- 28. Minimise noise associated with fishing operations, especially between 10pm and 5am.**
- 29. 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.**



NSW OHF CoP – Safety

- 30. Ensure fishing operations are conducted in a safe manner for fishers and the public, including sufficient insurance cover.
- 31. 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.
- 32. Whilst driving on beaches, abide by designated speed limits and reduce speed when in close proximity to other beach users or flagged areas.
- 33. Work with local Councils to signpost entry and exit points used to access fishing grounds.



NSW OHF CoP – Environment and pollution

- 34. Conduct fishing operations, and maintain fishing boats and vehicles, in a manner that minimises environmental impacts.
- 35. Minimise the use of hauling nets over areas of seagrass.
- 36. Minimise use of vehicles on storm damaged or sensitive dune areas where temporary closures are proposed.
- 37. Responsibly dispose of any litter including derelict fishing gear, either generated by or collected in fishing operations.
- 38. Inform relevant authorities of significant pollution incident or other that may result in negative environmental impact.



NSW OHF CoP – Research, development and review

- 39. Be pro-active, co-operate and assist fisheries related research, development and extension programs.
- 40. Be proactive and participate in programs that help to develop individual and business skills.
- 41. Assist with ongoing reviews of the Ocean Hauling Fishery Code of Practice and discuss amongst industry and networks.

