

SAFE INTERACTION WITH MARINE LIFE

The ocean has a diversity of marine life that may harm humans. Sharks, crocodiles and fish may bite; stingrays and jellyfish may sting; some fish, seasnakes, blue ring octopus and cone shells are venomous. Remember that sharks and other marine creatures are a natural part of the marine environment. If in doubt do not touch and get out of the water. The chances of a shark attack are very low and a fatality are about one in a million. However there are some simple tips for safe swimming to help reduce the risk of incidents involving sharks and humans. Leave the water immediately if a large shark is sighted. Never swim alone, dawn or dusk or at night or in murky waters. For further information on dangerous marine life and prevention see the fact sheet available on the Surf Life Saving Association website.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Flag and float
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Weight belt with quick release buckle
- ✓ Never load speargun out of water
- ✓ Cover speartip
- ✓ Tell someone where you are going
- ✓ Dive with a buddy
- ✓ Check the weather
- ✓ Do a risk assessment of conditions
- ✓ Dive within your limits

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.spearsafe.webs.com>
<http://www.auf.com.au>
<http://www.slsa.asn.au>



SPEARFISHING CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is strongly recommended by the Australian Underwater Federation to ensure safety, exercise, enjoyment and fish for the future:-

- 1.** Safety for myself and others is the first priority (maintain fitness and first aid training, never hyperventilate, carry safety equipment and if possible dive with a buddy).
- 2.** Supervision. If you are under 15 years of age you should be supervised by an adult.
- 3.** Sustainability of marine life is necessary to ensure fish for the future. I will take only what I need.
- 4.** Rules. I will KNOW and obey fisheries and marine park regulations As an amateur I will NOT sell fish or other marine life and will REPORT those undertaking illegal activities.
- 5.** Education is important and I will inform people about the selectivity of spearfishing and will also help new and younger divers to learn this breathtaking sport.



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spear safe

AUSTRALIAN SPEARFISHING SAFETY INITIATIVE



Spear Safe is a national initiative to improve safety for Australian spearfishers. The initiative attempts to bring together a cohesive view on safety issues involved with spearfishing.

Spear Safe has the potential to save lives and greatly reduce the number of spearfishing related injuries and fatalities occurring in Australia. Spearfishing is a great activity but like all sports it has its potential dangers.

This brochure has been designed to raise awareness of some of the risks associated with spearfishing such as blackout, boat safety and marine creatures. The Spear Safe program involves various products including this brochure, DVD, sticker, website and training. The program has been designed by the community and supported by government and industry groups

