

## Program Supporters



# NSW Angel Ring Update

28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

## Anglers need to be responsible for their own safety

The dangers facing rock fishers who enjoy the sport around our Australian coast always need to be at the forefront of every decision they make when it comes to the location they choose to fish. It only takes a split second to get into trouble, a momentary lapse of concentration and a failure to observe often sees many anglers who fish the rocks involved in "lucky escapes"...and many lucky escapes could easily result in an angler drowning.

Take care and be responsible this long weekend.

A few weeks ago I was asked to attend a meeting with the NSW Marine Area Command to discuss the NSW Police taking a more active role in the work we were doing with regards to rockfishing safety and as we sat there we were confronted with the scenario that the search was still continuing for an angler washed off the rocks south of Sydney that morning and that a body of a rock fisherman was retrieved north of Sydney who had been washed in that afternoon. Conditions were bad and we did have a large swell to 2.5 meters and these anglers were fishing on very exposed platforms. Should they have been there? The answer is NO.



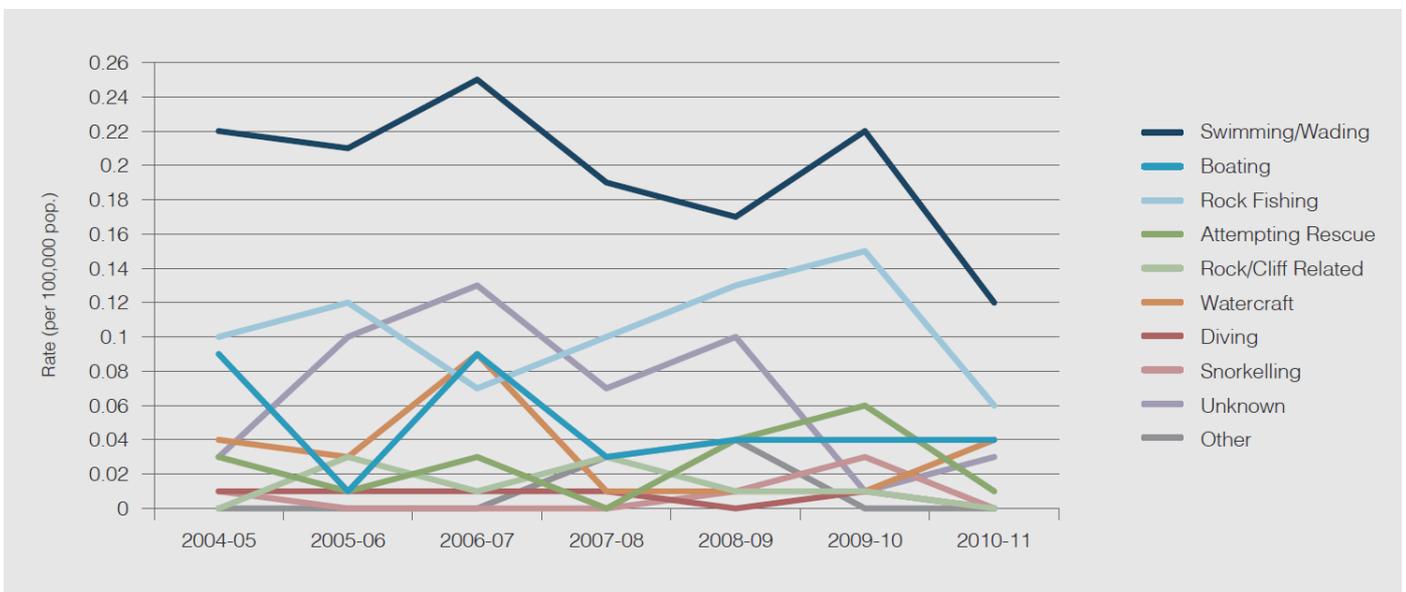
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That very same day these anglers above were fishing the rocks near Manly on Sydney's Northern Beaches. The pictures shows you how big the seas were that day, and tragically a few headlands up and a few hours later this is where the other angler lost his life when he was swept in off the rocks.

In this case the anglers above were wearing lifejackets, however they should never have been fishing that spot. We are not sure if it was inexperience or bravado that led them to fish in these conditions, in any case wearing a lifejacket is not the answer – find somewhere safer to fish.

Following on from a tragic 2009/2010 when 13 people lost their lives off the rocks, with a lot of hard work we managed to get that down to 3 in 2010/2011, our lowest rate for many years. What concerns me is that we had our highest ever confirmed rescues with Angel Rings in 2010/2011, with 8 anglers rescued. That's too many people in the water.

The sudden and shocking deaths just goes to show we always need to be vigilant and keep an eye out for each other and be very aware when we fish the rocks.



Finally, as ANSA NSW members we should be leading by example when it comes to fishing safety. Make sure your mates, crew and kids are safe and kids have their lifejacket's on. If you fish the rocks, make sure you carry safety equipment and lead by example by doing the right things and wearing the right gear.

