

SDFSFA Newsletter – May 2022

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: info@sdfsfa.net or Web: <https://sdfsfa.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>

SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568109670769809>

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Our New Banner!

With thanks to Karolyn Landat for the wonderful photo, Claudia Fitzpatrick of Claudia Fitzpatrick Design for her professional expertise in design and layout, and OfficeWorks (via Chelsea Haebich) for their generosity in producing and donating the banner.



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SDFSFA Releases its Guidelines for Underwater Photographers

It is increasingly rare these days to see a group of divers without at least one person carrying an underwater camera or a Go Pro. And when underwater casings for mobile phones become more widely available, the interest in recording images from a dive will only increase. SDFSFA felt it was timely to develop guidelines for all underwater photographers to encourage minimal impact on our marine life and environment. Whether you are taking photos simply to help you identify the local critters, or you are contributing to citizen science efforts to document species, or you want to recreate for your friends the beauty of the underwater world, these guidelines are for you.

The guidelines cover 11 good practices, with photos to illustrate:

1. Manage your buoyancy
2. Pay attention to trim
3. Don't lie on the seabed
4. Move in a slow, controlled and gentle manner
5. Don't let anything hang and drag along the bottom
6. Don't touch or move anything
7. Avoid or limit bright lights where possible
8. Be patient
9. Be careful with using muck sticks
10. Ditch the gloves if you can manage the cold
11. Follow the Code of Conduct for Diving with Dragons



As the Guidelines state,

Ideally you should try to perfect your skills of buoyancy and trim before trying underwater photography. Give yourself time to dive, dive, dive and practice, practice, practice your skills, then add the camera later when you are entirely comfortable and in control in the water. Take the time to observe the marine environment – the plants and animals, watch their behaviours and their habitats. You will learn so much and get so much joy from your photography if you follow these handy hints and will be protecting our precious underwater world at the same time.

The Guidelines in full can be downloaded from the SDFSFA website, at <https://sdfsfa.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Guidelines-for-photographers-04-05-2022.pdf>.



With thanks to Karolyn Landat and her fellow committee members, Sebastien Landat and Steve Simmons for compiling the guidelines, and to all those underwater photographers who provided their input.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

A DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS OCEAN CLEANUP is planned for Sunday 29th May at Port Gawler mangroves pontoon 10:30am – 2pm (one dive). All scuba divers, snorkellers and non-swimmers are welcome to help. The event is being organised through Diving Adelaide.

Bring a full set of scuba gear including tanks and weights, or your snorkelling gear. Gloves will be needed whether diving or snorkelling. Bags will be provided for the ocean cleanup. Also bring a large water bottle, hat and sunscreen, and your own snacks. Contact Diving Adelaide [08\) 8122 5003](tel:0881225003) for more information.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RE CHARTER BOAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

A draft Management Plan prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) for the SA Charter Boat Fishery has been released for public consultation. Documents are available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/charter-boat-consultation. Online feedback and written submissions (pirsa.feedback@sa.gov.au) re the draft plan and summary report close at 11.59pm on 21st June. According to PIRSA, “Charter boat fishing is considered a commercial platform for recreational fishing. The charter boat fishery is managed through a licensing and registration system. Charter boat fishing happens in South Australian marine waters and has bag, boat, size and trip limits. These might vary from limits that apply to individual fishers .. A management plan must also identify the impacts or potential impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem as well as ecological factors that could have an impact on the performance of the fishery.”

All submissions will be made available at West Beach for the 2 days after submissions close (22-23 June). To find out more about the Charter Boat Fishery, visit https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/community_engagement/?a=238574 . It starts off by saying,

DIVE FOR CANCER WILL BE BACK in 2023! Mark Tozer, owner of Mile End Furniture will be reinstating the annual Dive for Cancer event next year. Mark your calendars for Sunday 5th March 2023. A group dive at Port Noarlunga reef will be followed by food & drinks, a guest speaker, some prize giveaways, silent and live auctions. See www.diveforcancer.com.au.

NOTES FROM DIVE SHOPS AND CLUBS

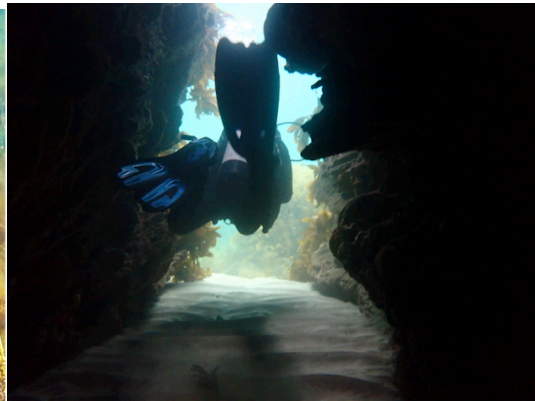
Thursday 26th May - Flinders University Underwater Club (FUUC) Night at the Theatre. A special presentation of “Cathedral” by Caleb Lewis - 6:30pm in the Matthew Flinders Theatre at Flinders University.

Performance Synopsis - A man kneels by his dive gear. It’s late afternoon on the Limestone Coast. He has a story to tell. It starts in the water. A powerful, visceral and form-busting new work by award-winning South Australian born playwright Caleb Lewis, Cathedral is a thriller, a family drama and an epic journey of self-discovery. From Mount Gambier to Thailand to the North Sea, from soaring first love to shattering loss to ultimate hope, this powerful story ponders a diver’s life shaped by the ocean, and its power to both upend and heal. “Cathedral” is being presented by the State Theatre Company South Australia and Country Arts SA in partnership with Flinders University. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cathedral-by-caleb-lewis-special-performance-tickets-305244343047> .

Veterans First Responders Diving Team ANZAC Day Memorial Dive

SDF Vice President Alex Suslin joined the Veterans First Responders Diving Team at Second Valley for the ANZAC Day Memorial Dive, coordinated by Andrew Smith. The women, led by Lisa McLean, did an underwater photography dive, whilst the men entered the second bay along a cleared channel between the rocks, just off the start of the concrete walkway, then followed the cliffs, checking out the & caves turning back after the swim-through. The highlight of the 80 minute dive was the large eagle ray. Afterwards, Peter Corrigan took everyone through his Second Valley air fill and tank hire station at 110 Finniss Drive. Those returning to Adelaide stopped for lunch and a commemorative ANZAC ale at the Victory Hotel.

Thanks to all for a memorable day.



SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The next SDFS Committee meeting is 25 May, 7pm, at the Arab Steed Hotel, Gilles St., Adelaide.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Chloe Williams on getting a job at the Rodney Fox Shark Museum and Shark Expeditions.
- Chris Iwanicki from the Marine Life Society on having recently found and photographed two angelsharks rarely seen in SA waters. Photos can be seen at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/110355924> and <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/110356134>.
- Wayne Leifert on having his photo of the wreck of the Excelsior at Mutton Cove displayed as part of the SA History Festival's exhibition of the Top 20 Heritage photos in the Adelaide Arcade during May.
- The Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Field School 2022 on having been able to study the Tasmanian-built ketch Three Sisters at Lipson Cove before it disappeared back into the sediments and became completely covered up again. They also got to study the old Lipson Cove jetty in the area whilst they were there.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

IMPROVING THE HANDLING OF SHARKS AND RAYS : The Role of Shark Mates

Shark Mates is an initiative that aims to reduce the harm caused to sharks and rays caught as recreational bycatch. The Shark Mates program is a joint initiative of Monash University, VR Fish (the organisation for Victorian Recreational Fishers), Victorian Fisheries Authority, Flinders University and FRDC. It aims to educate recreational fishers about how to handle a shark or ray to give the fish the best possible chance of survival after release.

Shark Mates offers "A better fishing experience for everyone - As a recreational fisher, you play a vital role in maintaining a healthy population of sharks, rays and other fish stocks. Understanding the different species and knowing how to fish responsibly will not only support fish populations, it'll improve your confidence and safety. The result? A more enjoyable fishing experience, now and in the future."

According to Shark Mates:

"Over recent years, some of you have indicated that there is room for improvement in the handling of sharks and rays. While you feel that you're doing the right thing, you're worried that others aren't. You've told us you want the fishing community to get more credible information about the best way to catch, handle and release sharks and rays. The Shark Mates initiative is about discovering and promoting best practice in recreational fishing guidelines so Australia can lead the way in supporting our sharks and respecting our rays." Further, "A skilled recreational fisher who cares for sharks and rays when out fishing - A Shark Mate is a steward of their fishery and someone who:

- Takes the time to understand different shark and ray species.
- Knows how to fish responsibly and cares for the welfare of sharks and rays.
- Follows the bag and size limits to fish sustainably.
- Follows best practice guidelines whether keeping or releasing their catch.

- Actively shares their knowledge with other recreational fishers.
- Understands that healthy populations of sharks and rays help maintain fish stocks and a balanced ecosystem.
- Accepts that their actions make all the difference.”

Marine biologist Associate Professor Richard Reina from Monash University has been working with sharks and fisheries for many years to understand the stress animals suffer when they get caught by fisher. He and colleagues have been studying the effects of capture and release on sharks and rays, both in experimental ‘semi-captive’ settings and on fishing vessels.

‘We found that the outcomes for these discarded animals were often pretty poor, including negative reproductive consequences’, A/Prof Reina says. Even lifting a large shark out of the water for a photo can do significant damage to its internal organs, especially for female sharks, he explains. Those findings are also relevant to both commercial and recreational fishers. Sharks and rays are vulnerable to population decline because of their long lifespans and low reproductive output. One of the Shark Mates messages is not to prolong the capture by taking photos. If a photo really needs to be taken, fishers should photograph the shark in the water before releasing, rather than hauling it onto the boat.

In an interaction with sharks, A/Prof Reina says the potential for fishers to injure themselves is quite high, and the potential for them to unintentionally cause a lot of harm to the animal is likewise quite high.

Informed by his research, Shark Mates has created an education resource for recreational fishers shared through social media – including a YouTube channel – and information guides that are distributed to members of VR Fish. ‘What we’ve got so far says that people find the information useful; we get plenty of hits on the channel, we get plenty of visits to the website’, he says. As with the Tuna Champions program, it is the fishers themselves who are driving the changes in behaviour, underpinned by a research-backed understanding of best practice and better fishing outcomes.

FRDC RESEARCH CODE: 2021-086, 2018-042, 2017-123

More information: A/Prof Sean Tracey Sean.Tracey@utas.edu.au “

Above details came from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation’s FRDC News for April 2022.

MORE TAXON CHANGES

Yet another taxon swap – the scientific name for the cleaner shrimp *Periclimenes aesopius* has changed to *Ancylomenes aesopius*. According to Wikipedia, “*Ancylomenes* is a genus of shrimp..... Members of the genus are widely distributed in the warm oceans* of the world and live in association with cnidarians; most are cleaner shrimp”.

* (Two sightings in SA waters have been posted to iNaturalist at this stage.)

The above taxon swap/change appears to have begun over 12 years ago with the publication of a paper titled “Designation of *Ancylomenes* gen. nov., for the ‘*Periclimenes aesopius* species group’ (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae), with the description of a new species and a checklist of congeneric species” by J. OKUNO & A. J. BRUCE in 2010.

Details can be found at

<https://research.nhm.org/pdfs/31325/31325.pdf?msclid=9a9075c3ba5311ec89495f3975d06675> .

Also, the scientific name for McNeill's Coral, *Australaraea mcneilli* has changed to *Coscinaraea mcneilli*. There have only been 30 South Australian sightings of McNeill's Coral posted to iNaturalist.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

Now until 24th July: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition run by the Natural History Museum in London is on display at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Thursday 26th May - Flinders University Underwater Club (FUUC) Night at the Theatre. A special presentation of "Cathedral" by Caleb Lewis - 6:30pm in the Matthew Flinders Theatre at Flinders University. Tickets on Eventbrite.

Sunday 29th May - Dive Against Debris Ocean Cleanup at Port Gawler mangroves pontoon 10:30am – 2pm. Contact Diving Adelaide for details.

8 June 2022: World Oceans Day: South Australia Events. Now's the time to start preparing your celebrations for World Oceans Day! Go to Worldoceansday.org for information on planning, listing and promoting your event. So far, there are no ocean events listed for Adelaide or South Australia, although several are planned in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. **SDFSa will be discussing how we can help to promote World Oceans Day.**

Streaming 8th June 2022 8:30am - 5:00pm: 2nd Blue Water Summit 2022 - The Great Southern Ocean. The Blue Water Summit is designed to encourage our global family to think broadly about the ongoing effects of population and climate change affecting our oceans, and how changes within the Southern Ocean have far reaching impacts worldwide. Our oceans operate as a single interconnected organism and what impacts locally effects globally. The Summit will stream up to eight hours of content gathering from environmental thought leaders, ocean advocates, and storytellers and with a focus on the Great Southern Oceans. <https://www.facebook.com/events/blue-water-institute/blue-watersummit/23406172695716>

21-23 September: Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) Conference, Adelaide. The theme for the conference is 'Decolonising Maritime'. It is the 40th anniversary of AIMA and the 20th anniversary of the Maritime Archaeology Program at Flinders. There will be speakers at the conference discussing topics such as the SUHR and the *City of Adelaide*.

Sunday, 5th March 2023: Dive for Cancer, Port Noarlunga. www.diveforcancer.com.au .

Interstate/International

27th-29th May 2022: The Malaysia International Dive Expo (MIDE) 2022 will be held at Hall 3, World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Visit <http://www.mide.com.my/> or <https://www.facebook.com/mideexpo> .

13th – 21st August 2022: NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2022. See www.scienceweek.net.au .

19th to 21st August 2022: 15th Australian National Shell Show - Sydney

1-2 October 2022: OZTEK Conference and OZDIVE Expo. Held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre. Visit <https://OZTek.com.au> and <https://OZDive.net.au> for more details.

6-10 November 2022: Australian Society for Fish Biology conference, Surfers Paradise. www.asfb.org.au

18th-21st November: The 2022 Nautical Archaeology Society Conference will be held in Ireland: https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwAR2fi13zFeWkYOayVaXAylaVnyqrHMNfthi9ebjioL4eWcXqvL_xpGm8rAM .

Australian International Dive Expo - AIDE 2021—postponed to 2022. See www.australiadiveexpo.com .

ABOUT THE SDFSA...

SDFSA is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world.

JOIN US FOR FREE!

<https://sdfsa.net/membership-categories/>

The more members we have, the stronger our influence. We serve as a peak body representing the interests of South Australian recreational scuba divers and the related sports of freediving and snorkelling, including the provision of information to government and the general public. Together we can have real impact on the issues affecting the South Australian diving community.

You can also read about the Federation's work in monthly issues of DiveLog Australasia, Scubadiver ANZ and on our website at <https://sdfsa.net>. Stay up to date with the latest news through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>. And follow our FB group, SA Dive Sites Vlz and Conditions for current diving conditions shared by the group members.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by authors of material in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Federation