

SDFSFA Bulletin February 2015

This bulletin is provided as a service to members of the
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The SDF is the peak body in South Australia, representing all recreational scuba divers.
The SDF is also the 'Safe Diving' Federation. We promote Safe Diving.

We are publishing this electronic bulletin as a separate publication to our normal monthly SDF News Sheet. Future issues of this "SDFSFA Bulletin" will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

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AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS REVIEW OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL 2nd MARCH

According to the web page found at wp.me/p4BvtZ-iJ, the SA Aquaculture Regulations review is "open for public comment until March 2, 2015. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Aquaculture Regulations 2005. This is the first review of the regulations since their commencement in 2005 and aims to simplify regulatory requirements and streamline operations for aquaculture operators. The main areas of the review include administrative changes incorporating navigational marking requirements, environmental programs and aquatic animal health. Targeted industry consultation has already taken place with this current consultation process providing all stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments. The proposed changes have been released for consultation until close-of-business, Monday 2 March 2015. Feedback can be provided by completing and submitting the response form available on PIRSA's website (directly linked below). Alternatively, hard copy responses can also be posted to: Ben Tanti, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, GPO Box 1625, Adelaide SA 5001. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the proposed changes please contact Aquaculture Policy & Regulations Officer, Ben Tanti, on (08) 8226 3483(08) 8226 3483 or at benjamin.tanti@sa.gov.au. The consultation document and response forms can be found below:

- [Aquaculture Regulations Review Public Consultation Document](#) (PDF 1.1 MB)
- [Complete online response form](#) (via PIRSA website)
- [Download response form](#) (DOC 76.0 KB)

Relevant legislation and existing regulations can be downloaded below:

- [Aquaculture Regulations 2005](#) (PDF)
- [Aquaculture Act 2001](#) (PDF)

AUSTRALIAN GOVT. TO OPT OUT OF PROTECTING FIVE SHARK SPECIES

According to the February issue of Dive magazine, “The Australian government has announced it will opt out of protecting five shark species. This week it said it was submitting a 'reservation' to ensure a recent international listing granting protection status to three species of thresher shark and two species of hammerhead does not take effect in Australian waters. Humane Society International has described the move as an 'unprecedented act of domestic and international environmental vandalism'. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals gave new protection status to 31 migratory species at a conference in November. Individual countries can opt out of the protection by registering what is called a 'reservation'. The listings were agreed to by consensus, with Australia among the countries present for the talks. But the government has had a change of heart and is seeking to opt out of co-operating with other countries to protect five of the shark species, arguing that Australia already has sufficient protections in place. Alexia Wellbelove, senior program manager at Humane Society International, said the Australian government was responding to complaints from recreational fishermen who catch and release the sharks, and commercial fishers who can accidentally trap them while hunting for other fish. If the five shark species were given international protection status, Australian laws would kick in, making it an offence to kill, injure, take or move the species in Australian waters. The listings were due to take effect next month. 'We just think it's really unbelievably disappointing because Australia has always led the way on shark conservation and this is really a step backward,' Ms Wellbelove said. 'It's a very sad day for protection of the marine environment if we take the easy road and opt of these things, rather than taking steps to protect our domestic waters.'” (Source: <http://divemagazine.co.uk/life/6946-australia-opts-out-shark-protection>)

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OFFERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO HORSE DRAWN TRAM AND SA WHALE CENTRE

The South Australian Whale Centre and Horse Drawn Tram at Victor Harbor have teamed up to launch an annual membership program that provides unlimited access to these popular attractions, plus a number of other value-for-money benefits. Membership benefits vary depending on whether you join up as a member of both or just one attraction. Some of the benefits include:

Unlimited entry to the South Australian Whale Centre and/or travel on the Horse Drawn Tram

10% discount on admissions to the South Australian Whale Centre for family and friends with a valid membership holder

Buy one-way get the return trip free for friends and family travelling with a valid membership holder

Subscription to a monthly e-newsletter

Whale sighting notifications

Invitations to exhibit launches and special events

And much more!

Annual membership prices start from \$25 for adults for unlimited access to one of the attractions or \$50 for a combination membership to both the South Australian Whale Centre and Horse Drawn Tram. A full list of prices and options (including the membership form) is available online at www.sawhalecentre.com/memberships, or by calling (08) 8551 0750. According to www.sawhalecentre.com/memberships,

“SA Whale Centre Membership Benefits:

- Unlimited free entry into the SA Whale Centre
- A non-transferable membership card.
- Monthly newsletter from SA Whale Centre via email
- Whale sighting notifications via email
- 10% off admission for friends and family with a valid membership holder
- Invitations to exhibit launches and special events
- Affiliated local business offers

SA Whale Centre Annual Membership:

Adult \$25 | Concession \$18 | Child \$13

Family \$60 (2 Adults 2 Children)

Horse Drawn Tram Membership Benefits

- Unlimited free entry on the Horse Drawn Tram
- A non-transferable membership card.
- Buy one-way get return trip free for friends and family with a valid membership holder
- Invitations to exhibit launches and special events
- Affiliated local business offers

Horse Drawn Tram Annual Membership:

Adult \$25 | Concession \$18 | Child \$13

Family \$60 (2 Adults 2 Children)

Combination Membership Benefits

- All benefits listed for both SA Whale Centre and Horse Drawn Tram

PLUS Local business benefits

- Hotel Victor: Receive one free house wine, schooner of beer or schooner of soft drink with any main meal purchase
- Girdlers Amusement Park: \$1 OFF per ride
- Nino's Cafe: Receive a free tea or coffee with any main meal purchase
- URIMBIRRA Wildlife Park: 10% off admission
- Causeway Kiosk: Buy one get one free coffee or tea

Combination Annual Membership

Adult \$50 | Concession \$35 | Child \$25

Family \$120 (2 Adults 2 Children)

But this all comes at a time when Councillors (and a volunteer from the Victor Harbor Visitor Information Centre) have raised their concerns about the future of Granite Island (see <http://www.victorharbortimes.com.au/story/2848409/what-will-become-of-the-island/>).

DIVING IN SA

A look through some of the SA Marine Park web pages reveals:

“There’s simply no better way to experience South Australia’s marine parks than exploring the many reefs, shipwrecks and other underwater wonderlands that lie beneath the waves. It’s impossible to describe the variety and beauty of sea life without seeing it firsthand: the multi-coloured reef fish, giant gardens of sponge and fan coral, vibrant

seagrass communities, the mating displays of giant Australian cuttlefish in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park or, if you're really brave, cage diving with the mighty great white shark off the Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park

(Source: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/shark-cage-diving>)

“South Australia is home to some of Australia’s best diving locations with dives to suit all skill levels, and there’s no better place than our marine parks, with all sanctuary zones open to diving (as well as other activities like sailing and surfing). Explore the wreck of the HMAS Hobart (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/diving/diving-the-hmas-hobart>) which lies within the Rapid Head Sanctuary Zone in the Encounter Marine Park or visit South Australia's other iconic dive sites:

- Rapid Bay Jetty in the Encounter Marine Park - the best and safest place to see the iconic leafy sea dragon. These amazingly well camouflaged animals gather in the under jetty habitat that has formed in these waters
- Top-Gallant Isles in the Investigator Marine Park - one of the jewels of the marine parks network and home to spectacular invertebrate communities including sponges and sea squirts (considered one of the best dives in the state)
- Aldinga Reef in the Encounter Marine Park - home to one of Australia’s oldest marine reserves, a perfectly preserved example of a temperate, Southern Australian reef that’s teeming with fish, sponges and encrusting communities
- Chinaman’s Hat Island in Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park - home to a vast array of reef and rocky ledges, reef fish and stingrays.

Tips for enjoying diving in SA’s marine park

- Diving is a safe marine sport, but like anything involving the water, it’s important to be prepared. You should always consult a local dive shop or someone with recent experience in the area before attempting any dive.
- Although diving is allowed in sanctuary zones, try to avoid damaging sensitive sea floor animals like sponges and habitat through contact and fin damage.
- Many regional centres have local dive charter operators. Check local guides for services and package deals.

(Source: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/diving>) Other pages of interest can be found at both

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/snorkelling> and

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/enjoy/boating>.

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA is a member of the following: -

Rapid Bay Jetty Design Group

RecfishSA (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council)

Fleurieu Reef Advisory Group (Ex-HMAS *Hobart*)

TRAIL COMMITTEES - SA Trails Coordinating Committee (Office of Recreation & Sport) and Port Noarlunga Reef Underwater Trail South Australian Trails

If you wish to be included on the mailing list for this electronic bulletin, contact Steve Reynolds, the Federation’s Secretary, on sdfsa@adam.com.au for more details.

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