

Mr Dominic Minghella
Generalist Case Investigator
Coroners Court of Victoria
By email: Dominic.Minghella@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Minghella,

VFA response to coronial recommendation in the matter of Xu Zhou (COR 2018 0089)

Thank you for your email of 7 February 2022 regarding the coronial recommendation made by Deputy State Coroner Caitlin English in her investigation into the death of Xu ZHOU (COR 2018 0089).

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) fully accepted the Coroner's report, and I am pleased to advise the recommendations have now been implemented. The online version of the 2021 Recreational Fishing Guide, the VFA website and the VicFish mobile application now include relevant information about abalone fishing safety and the risk of drowning. The 2021 Recreational Fishing Guide and 'Safety around the water' webpages have also been translated into Chinese and Vietnamese and published on the VFA website. The hard copy of the 2022 Recreational Fishing guide will soon be printed and will include relevant dive safety information.

The VFA has also developed broader education material regarding snorkelling safety that has been published on the VFA website in multiple languages. This includes a 'Be smart when snorkelling' information flyer and a 'Safe diving' animation that can be viewed [here](#). Further, throughout 2021 the VFA has promoted dive safety messaging at multi-agency community events and used SBS language radio to increase the Chinese and Vietnamese communities' knowledge around dive safety.

In addition to the above measures, the Minister for Fishing and Boating has established a two-year trial of new laws commencing on 1 March 2022 that require rock fishers to wear a lifejacket at high-risk locations across Victoria. A detailed education and information campaign, including videos, signage and media will be implemented to support this change in legislation.

The VFA will continue to investigate other opportunities to further assist the Victorian community to understand the risks associated with dive fishing, and the actions individuals are required to undertake to mitigate those risks.

If you have any questions relating to this matter please contact Natashar Wills, Senior Fisheries Officer – Community Engagement on 0428 350 725 or via email natashar.wills@vfa.vic.gov.au.

Kind regards



Chris Padovani
A/Director Fisheries Management, Science, Policy, Licensing and Communications
Victorian Fisheries Authority

15 / 02 / 2022