

SafeWaters

A NSW GOVERNMENT WATER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Rock fishing Fatalities in NSW Dataset

April 2002

Rock fishing Fatalities in NSW

‘Rockfishing Fatalities Dataset

Background:

Rock fishing is considered one of the most dangerous pastimes in NSW having accounted for more than 60 fatalities in the last ten years. The NSW Water Safety Taskforce (WSTF), predominantly under the Standards Sub-Committee, is therefore addressing the safety of rock fishing as a matter of priority.

The agencies represented on the Standards Sub-Committee agreed that in order to determine how to best address the safety of rock fishing, information on the circumstances of rock fishing fatalities and the demographics of rock fishing fatality victims was required. As the level of detail required for this purpose has only been recorded in the coronial files of rock fishing fatalities, it was agreed that an investigation should be undertaken into the coronial files of the 60 or so rock fishing fatalities that have occurred in NSW since 1992.

This rock fishing fatalities dataset provides an indication of the information that was collected from the coronial files and the format in which this information will be recorded.

Goals:

To conduct an investigation of coronial records for all rock fishing fatalities which have occurred in the last 10 years and to produce a report making recommendations to improve the safety of the activity based on this research. Information that will be derived from this research includes the location of rock fishing black spots, the groups of people most at risk from rock fishing and other factors which contribute to rock fishing fatalities.

Objectives:

To obtain detailed information on circumstances surrounding all rock fishing fatalities since 1992. This information will be used to determine:

- a) The groups of people most at risk to rock fishing fatalities and therefore help to improve the effectiveness of education campaigns by directing these campaigns towards those most at risk to rock fishing fatalities;
- b) The locations of rock fishing black spots;
- c) Which people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have died as a result of rock fishing at each location;
- d) Whether certain age groups are at a greater risk to rock fishing fatalities than others;
- e) Whether there is a correlation between swimming ability and the number of rock fishing fatalities;
- f) What is the most common cause of death for rock fishing fatality victims, which may be used to help advise rock fishers of what to do in the event that they are washed into the water.
- g) Whether signage and angel rings have improved the safety of rock fishing in the areas in which they have been located;
- h) Whether there is a pattern of rock fishing fatalities occurring on certain days of the week (eg weekends), times of day and times of year;
- i) Whether there is a correlation between rock fishing fatalities and lack of experience in the activity;
- j) Whether there is a correlation between drug and alcohol use and rock fishing fatalities;

- k) Whether there is a correlation between the number of rock fishing fatalities and the distance that the victim travelled to the rock fishing location from their place of residence;
- l) Whether there is a correlation between the safety equipment used, or lack of, and the number of rock fishing fatalities;
- m) What the circumstances of the fatality were eg whether the deceased was fishing alone;
- n) Whether the rescue organisation, techniques and equipment used may have an impact on the chances of survival of a person who is swept into the water; and
- o) If there is a correlation between weather and wave conditions and the number of rock fishing fatalities to determine if dangerous rock fishing conditions can be forecast, and warnings subsequently broadcast through the media (as recommended by National Water Safety Conference in 1995).

This project also produced a database of rock fishing fatality information that can be added to in the future and assist in the future evaluation of strategies to address the safety of rock fishing.

Method:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics provided the registration number for each rock fishing fatality that occurred in NSW. This registration number can be used by the Registrar General to obtain the name of the deceased which can be used by the coroners court to locate the files relating to the estimates 60 rock fishing fatalities that have occurred in NSW since 1992.

As permission was required from the Coroner to access the 60 rock fishing fatality coronial files. Once access to the Coronial files was approved information was collected and coded in a similar format to that of the draft minimum data set for water safety that has been developed by the Evidence Sub-Committee.

Once this information was collected an analysis of the database was undertaken to determine the key patterns of rock fishing fatalities as described above under objectives.

It is anticipated that this data base will also be used for future analysis of rock fishing fatality trends and provide a long term resource of information that can be built upon in the future.

Outcomes:

Once completed this research will provide:

- A detailed database of rock fishing fatality information that may expanded upon in the future to assist in the development of strategies to reduce the number of rock fishing fatalities and the future evaluation of these strategies; and
- A report describing demographic details and patterns in past rock fishing fatalities such as the groups of people most at risk, the details of rock fishing black spots and the influence of alcohol and drug use on rock fishing fatalities.

It is expected that this information will place the WSTF in a much stronger position to make appropriate recommendations and preventative strategies to address the safety of rock fishing in NSW.

Variable Summary

Variable	Variable Definition	Page
Unique identifier	A consecutive number allocated to each record.	7
Coronial information		
Coronial file number	Coronial file or inquest number.	7
Coroner's recommendations - text	What were the Coroner's recommendations	8
Deceased information		
Age	What was the age of the person?	8
Sex	What was the sex of the person?	8
Postcode	What was the postcode of the suburb of the usual residence of the person?	9
Main language	What was the main language spoken at home of the person?	9
Tourist	Was the person an Australian resident or tourist?	10
Country of residence	What was the country of residence of the person?	10
Indigenous status	Was the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?	11
Swimming ability	What was the swimming ability of the person?	11
Rockfishing frequency	How frequently did the person rockfish?	12
Rockfishing frequency at that location	How frequently did the person rockfish at the location of the incident?	12
Activity	What activity was the person performing just prior to the incident?	13
Activity – text	What activity was the person performing just prior to the incident?	13
Action of deceased after being swept into the water-text	What did deceased do immediately after being swept into the water?	14
Fishing licence?	What type of fishing licence (if any) did the deceased have?	14
Clothing worn - text	What clothing was worn by the person at time of incident?	15
Personal Protection Equipment worn - text	What Personal Protection Equipment was being used by the person at the time of the incident?	15
Cause of death	What was the pathophysiological cause of death?	16
BAC test conducted?	Was a blood alcohol test conducted?	16
BAC value	What was the person's BAC value	17
BAC relevant to incident?	Was BAC relevant to the incident	17
Were other drugs tested?	Were other drugs tested?	18
Type of other drug - text	What other drug was detected?	18
Importance of other drug	What was the importance of the drug in relation to the fatality?	19
Incident information		
Date	What was the date of the incident?	19
Day of the week	What was the day of the week of the incident?	20
Time	What was the time of the incident?	20
Location - text	Where did the incident occur?	21
Location postcode	What is the postcode of the location where the incident occurred?	21
Mechanism of injury	What was the mechanism of injury?	21
Number of people rockfishing at the location	How many people were rock fishing at the location at the time of the incident?	23
How rescue agency was alerted to the incident?	How was the rescue agency that responded to the incident alerted?	23
Organisation attempting rescue?-Text	Which organisations attempted to rescue the deceased?	24
Rescue Equipment - Text	What rescue equipment was used (if any) in the attempted rescue?	24
Rescue Technique - Text	What rescue technique was used in the attempted rescue? text	25

Variable	Variable Definition	Page
Contributing factors to the fatality- text	What were the contributing factors that resulted in the incident being a fatality instead of a rescue? For example time, lack of equipment, rescue technique etc.	25
Organisation involved in the recovery	Which rescue organisations were involved in the attempted rescue/recovery	26
Nearest rescue service	How close was the incident to the nearest rescue service?	26
Were other persons killed?	Were there other rock fishing fatalities for the same incident?	27
Unique identifier of other person/s killed - text	What was the unique identifier of the other person killed?	27
Were other person/s non-fatally injured?	Were other person/s non-fatally injured?	28
Other person/s - text	What were the details of the injury	28
Environment information		
Weather	What were the weather conditions at the time of the incident?	29
Wind conditions	What were the wind conditions at the time of the incident?	29
Water temp - relative	What was the estimated water temperature at the time of the incident?	30
High tide/low tide	What were the tidal conditions at the time of the incident?	31
Sea conditions	What were the sea surface conditions at the time of the rescue?	31
Wave height	What was the wave height at the time of the rescue?	32
Incident – text	What were the details of the incident including contributing factors.	32

Variable	Unique identifier (ID) [Note: information in brackets is for coding purposes only]
Definition	A consecutive number allocated to each record.
Justification	To allow for the identification of records.
Format	3 characters Numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	Coronial file number (cor_no)
Definition	Coronial file or inquest number
Justification	To allow for the identification of records.
Format	12 characters Numeric and text
Coding source	
Coding frame	Year/record number eg 99/102
Comments	

Variable	Coroner's recommendations (cor_rec)
Definition	What were the Coroner's recommendations?
Justification	To record all coronial recommendations relating to rock fishing fatalities.
Format	Text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	Age (age)
Definition	What was the age of the person?
Justification	Basic demographic details to determine if certain age groups are involved in a greater number of rock fishing fatalities than others.
Format	2 digit Numeric
Coding source	Age will be converted into age groupings for data analysis.
Coding frame	1 onwards
Comments	

Variable	Sex (sex)
Definition	What was the sex of the person?
Justification	Basic demographic details to determine if some sexes may be involved in a greater number of deaths.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	National Health Data Dictionary, Version 10.
Coding frame	1 Male 2 Female 9 Not recorded
Comments	

Variable	Postcode (dec_pc)
Definition	What was the postcode of the suburb of the usual residence of the person?
Justification	Basic demographic details and to determine whether there is a correlation between the number of rock fishing fatalities and the distance that the person traveled to the rock fishing location from their place of residence.
Format	4 digit Numeric
Coding source	Australia Post website www.auspost.com.au provides up-to-date postcodes and localities.
Coding frame	1000 No fixed abode 9998Overseas 9999 Postcode not known
Comments	

Variable	Main language (lang)
Definition	What was the main language spoken at home of the person?
Justification	Basic demographic details to determine if people from culturally and linguistically diverse back grounds are involved in a greater number of rock fishing fatalities at certain locations.
Format	text field
Coding source	
Coding frame	free text
Comments	

Variable	Tourist (tourist)	
Definition	Was the person an Australian resident or a tourist?	
Justification	Basic demographic details to determine if some tourists may be involved in a greater number of rock fishing fatalities.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source		
Coding frame	1	Australian resident
	2	Overseas tourist
	9	Not known
Comments		

Variable	Country of residence (country)	
Definition	What was the country of residence of the person?	
Justification	To determine whether people from certain regions of the world are involved in a greater number of rock fishing fatalities.	
Format	text field	
Coding source		
Coding frame	free text	
Comments		

Variable	Indigenous status (indig)
Definition	Was the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
Justification	Basic demographic details.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	National Health Data Dictionary, Version 10.
Coding frame	1 Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin 2 Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin 4 Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin 9 Not stated
Comments	An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

Variable	Swimming ability (swim)
Definition	What was the swimming ability of the person?
Justification	To determine whether there is a correlation between swimming ability and the number of rock fishing fatalities;
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 Swimmer 2 Non-swimmer 9 Not known
Comments	

Variable	Rockfishing frequency (rf_freq)
Definition	How frequently did the person rockfish?
Justification	To try and establish a sense of person-time risk of involvement in rock fishing. To determine whether lack of experience has an impact on the risk of rock fishing.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 Very often (eg daily) 2 Often (eg weekends) 3 Sometimes (eg monthly) 4 Hardly ever (eg holidays) 8 Not relevant 9 Not known
Comments	

Variable	Rock fishing frequency at that location (rf_fr_l)
Definition	How frequently did the person rockfish at the location of the fatal incident?
Justification	To try and establish a sense of person-time risk of involvement in rockfishing at the fatal incident location.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 Very often (eg daily) 2 Often (eg weekends) 3 Sometimes (eg monthly) 4 Hardly ever (eg holidays) 8 Not relevant 9 Not known
Comments	

Variable	Activity (activ)																		
Definition	What activity was the person performing just prior to the incident?																		
Justification	To determine whether the recorded fatality is associated with an activity other than rock fishing such as attempting a rescue.																		
Format	2 digit Numeric																		
Coding source																			
Coding frame	<table> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Rock fishing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Other types of fishing (excluding spear fishing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Attempting a rescue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Swimming, paddling or wading</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Walking/ Playing near water</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Rock walking</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Suspected suicide</td> </tr> <tr> <td>97</td> <td>Other (specify in text)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>99</td> <td>Not known</td> </tr> </table>	1	Rock fishing	2	Other types of fishing (excluding spear fishing)	3	Attempting a rescue	4	Swimming, paddling or wading	5	Walking/ Playing near water	6	Rock walking	7	Suspected suicide	97	Other (specify in text)	99	Not known
1	Rock fishing																		
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3	Attempting a rescue																		
4	Swimming, paddling or wading																		
5	Walking/ Playing near water																		
6	Rock walking																		
7	Suspected suicide																		
97	Other (specify in text)																		
99	Not known																		

Comments

Variable	Activity (act_txt)
Definition	What activity was the person performing just prior to the incident?
Justification	If 'other' is selected in the Activity variable, then the activity the person was performing just prior to their rescue is recorded.
Format	text field
Coding source	
Coding frame	free text
Comments	

Variable Action of deceased after being swept into water (act_aft)
Definition What did the deceased do immediately after being swept into the water?
Justification To determine what action people take after being washed into the water.
Format Text
Coding source
Coding frame
Comments

Variable Fishing licence (licnce)
Definition What type of fishing licence did the deceased have if any?
Justification To determine whether there is a pattern of rock fishing fatality victims not having fishing licenses.
Format Text
Coding source
Coding frame
0 no fishing licence
1 3 days fishing licence
2 1 month fishing licence
3 1 year fishing licence
4 3 years fishing licence
5 death prior to July 2001 (so licence not nec)

8 not relevant
9 not known

Comments

Variable	Clothing worn (clothes)
Definition	What clothing was the deceased wearing at the time of the incident?
Justification	To determine whether certain types of clothing (eg gum boots) are being worn by rock fishing fatality victims which may impact upon their ability to survive once in the water.
Format	Text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	Personal protection equipment worn (ppe)
Definition	What personal protection equipment (eg floatation device, cleat shoes) was the deceased wearing?
Justification	To determine whether certain types of safety equipment are not being worn by rock fishing fatality victims which may impact upon their ability to survive a rock fishing incident'.
Format	Text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable Cause of death (cod)
Definition What was the pathophysiological cause of death?
Justification
Format Text
Coding source
Coding frame
Comments

Variable BAC test (bac_tst)
Definition Was a BAC test conducted?
Justification
Format Numeric
Coding source
Coding frame 0 no
1 yes
2 probably
3 probably not
8 not relevant
9 not known.
Comments

Variable	BAC value (bac)
Definition	What was the BAC value?
Justification	To determine whether there is a correlation between alcohol use and rock fishing fatalities
Format	g/100 ml
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	BAC relevant (bac_rel)
Definition	Was the BAC value relevant to the incident?
Justification	
Format	Numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	0 no 1 yes 2 probably 3 probably not 8 not relevant 9 not known.
Comments	

Variable Drug test (drg_tst)

Definition Were other drugs tested for?

Justification

Format Numeric

Coding source

Coding frame

0	no
1	yes
2	probably
3	probably not
8	not relevant
9	not known.

Comments

Variable Other drug type (drg_typ)

Definition What were the other drug/s found & their quantity in the deceased?

Justification To determine whether there is a correlation between certain drug use and rock fishing fatalities

Format text

Coding source

Coding frame

Comments

Variable Drug relevant (drg_rel)

Definition Was the drug/s value relevant to the incident?

Justification

Format Numeric

Coding source

Coding frame

0	no
1	yes
2	probably
3	probably not
8	not relevant
9	not known.

Comments

Variable Date (date)

Definition What was the date of the incident?

Justification To determine patterns of rock fishing fatalities throughout the year.

Format 8 digit
Date format

Coding source

Coding frame dd/mm/yyyy
Eg 24/09/2001

Comments

Variable	Day of the week (day)	
Definition	What was the day of the week of the incident?	
Justification	To determine patterns of rock fishing fatalities by days of the week.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source		
Coding frame	1	Monday
	2	Tuesday
	3	Wednesday
	4	Thursday
	5	Friday
	6	Saturday
	7	Sunday
	9	Not known
Comments		

Variable	Time (time)	
Definition	What was the time of the incident?	
Justification	To determine patterns of rock fishing fatalities by time of the day	
Format	4 digit Numeric	
Coding source	24 hour clock	
Coding frame	hhmm	
	Eg 2.00pm would be 1400	
	9999	not known
Comments		

Variable	Location – text (locatn)
Definition	Where did the incident occur?
Justification	To allow for the identification of the rock fishing black spots.
Format	text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	Location postcode (loc_pc)
Definition	What was the postcode of the incident?
Justification	To enable maps to be developed of the location of rock fishing black spots by post code.
Format	4 digit Numeric
Coding source	Australia Post website www.auspost.com.au provides up-to-date postcodes and localities.
Coding frame	9999 Postcode not known
Comments	

Variable	Mechanism of Injury (mec_inj)
Definition	What was the mechanism of injury?
Justification	
Format	2 digit Numeric
Coding source	Type of Occurrence Coding Frame, NOHSC.
Coding frame	0 no mechanism 1 falls from a height 2 falls on the same level 3 stepping, kneeling or sitting on objects 4 standing on an object 5 falls, trips and slips of a person unspec

- 10 hitting objects with a part of the body unspec
- 11 hitting stationary objects
- 12 hitting moving objects
- 13 rubbing and chafing
- 20 being hit by moving objects unspec
- 21 being hit by falling objects
- 22 being bitten by an animal
- 23 being hit by an animal
- 24 being hit by a person
- 25 being trapped by moving machinery
- 26 being trapped between stationary and moving objects
- 27 exposure to mechanical vibration
- 28 being hit by moving objects
- 30 sound and pressure unspec
- 31 exposure to single sudden sound
- 32 long term exposure to sounds
- 38 barotrauma
- 39 other variations in pressure
- 40 body stressing unspec
- 41 muscular stress while lifting carrying or putting
- 42 muscular stress while handling objects other
- 43 muscular stress with no objects being handled
- 44 repetitive movement low muscle loading
- 50 heat, radiation and electricity unspec
- 51 contact with hot objects
- 52 contact with cold objects
- 53 exposure to environmental heat
- 54 exposure to environmental cold
- 55 exposure to non-ionising radiation
- 56 exposure to ionising radiation
- 57 contact with electricity
- 58 drowning
- 59 explosion
- 60 chemicals and other substances unspec
- 61 single contact with chemical or substance
- 62 long term contact with chemicals or substances
- 63 insect and spider bites and stings
- 64 hypoxic atmosphere
- 69 other and unspecified contact with chemical or substance
- 71 biological factors contact with, or exposure to
- 81 mental stress factors exposure to
- 82 shot by gun, rifle etc
- 83 stabbed by knife
- 84 assault with other weapon
- 91 slide or cave-in
- 92 vehicle accident
- 93 rollover of mobile equipment or machinery
- 96 other and multiple mechanisms of injury
- 97 unspecified mechanisms of injury
- 98 not relevant
- 99 unknown mechanism.

Comments

Variable	Number people rockfishing (no_rf)
Definition	How many other people were rockfishing at the location at the time of the incident?
Justification	To determine if there is a correlation between rock fishing fatalities and the number of people fishing at the location.
Format	2 digit numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 onwards
Comments	

Variable	Rescue alert (res_alt)
Definition	How was the rescue organisation, which responded to the incident, alerted?
Justification	To determine what are the common methods of alerting rescue organisations of a rock fishing incident.
Format	2 digit numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 000 call from mobile phone 2 000 call from public phone 6 Automated alarm 7 angel ring removal alarm 8 Witness ran to obtain assistance 9 Marine radio 10 Other 8 Not known 9
Comments	

Variable	Rescue organisation (res_org)
Definition	Which rescue organisation attempted to rescue the deceased?
Justification	To determine which organisation in each location is used to attempt rescues for rock fishing incidents
Format	2 digit numeric
Coding source	
Coding frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Police 2 Water Police 3 Attempts by rock fishers 4 Professional Lifeguards 5 SLSNSW (volunteer) 6 AVCG 7 RVCP 8 Westpac Rescue Helicopter 9 Other (Text?) 10 No rescue was attempted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99 Not known
Comments	

Variable	Rescue equipment (res_eqp)
Definition	What rescue equipment was used in the attempted rescue?
Justification	To determine the availability and use of certain rescue equipment during rock fishing rescue attempts.
Format	Text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable	Rescue Technique (res_tec)
Definition	What rescue techniques were employed in the attempted rescue?
Justification	To provide details of the various rescue technique that are employed.
Format	text
Coding source	
Coding frame	free text
Comments	

Variable	Factors contributing to the fatality (factors)
Definition	What were the factors that may have contributed to a potential rescue incident becoming a fatality incident?
Justification	To determine whether certain factors that contributed to the fatality, such as the time taken to alert the rescue authorities that an incident has occurred, may be addressed in the future to improve the safety of the sport.
Format	text field
Coding source	
Coding frame	free text
Comments	

Variable	Organisations involved in recovery (org_rec)
Definition	Which organisations were involved in the recovery of the deceased?
Justification	To determine which organisations in are used for recovery in each location.
Format	text field
Coding source	
Coding frame	1 Police 2 Water Police 3 Attempts by rock fishers 4 Professional Lifeguards 5 SLSNSW (volunteer) 6 AVCG 7 RVCP 8 Westpac Rescue Helicopter 9 Other (Text?) 99 Not known

Comments

Variable	Nearest rescue service (near_rs)
Definition	How close was the incident to the nearest rescue service?
Justification	To determine which rock fishing locations are isolated from rescue services.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	kilometres
Coding frame	1 less than 1 km 2 1 to 5 km 3 greater than 5 km 8 Not relevant 9 Not known

Comments

Variable	Other persons killed (oth_kil)												
Definition	Were other persons killed in the same incident?												
Justification	To determine the extent of multiple rock fishing fatalities.												
Format	1 digit numeric												
Coding source													
Coding frame	<table> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>probably</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>probably not</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>not relevant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>not known.</td> </tr> </table>	0	no	1	yes	2	probably	3	probably not	8	not relevant	9	not known.
0	no												
1	yes												
2	probably												
3	probably not												
8	not relevant												
9	not known.												
Comments													

Variable	Other persons killed ID (opk_id)
Definition	What is the unique identification number of the other person/s killed?
Justification	linkage
Format	text
Coding source	
Coding frame	
Comments	

Variable Other persons injured (op_inj)

Definition Were other persons nonfatally injured in the incident?

Justification

Format 1 digit numeric

Coding source

Coding frame

0	no
1	yes
2	probably
3	probably not
8	not relevant
9	not known.

Comments

Variable Other persons injured – text (opi_txt)

Definition What were the details of the other injury?

Justification

Format text

Coding source

Coding frame

Comments

Variable	Weather (weather)	
Definition	What were the weather conditions at the time of the incident?	
Justification	To establish the weather conditions that were present at the time of the incident.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source:	SLS patrol log	
Coding frame	1	fine
	2	raining
	3	overcast
	8	not relevant (eg indoor pool)
	9	not known
Comments		

Variable	Wind conditions (wind)	
Definition	What were the wind conditions at the time of the incident?	
Justification	To establish the wind conditions that were present at the time of the incident.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source	Waterways Authority Boating Incident Report	
Coding frame	1	none
	2	light
	3	moderate
	4	strong
	5	storm
	10	not relevant (eg indoor pool)
	11	not known
Comments		

Location	Definition
Light	Greater than 1 and less than or equal to 8 knots.
Moderate	Greater than 8 and less than or equal to 15 knots.
Strong	Greater than 15 and less than or equal to 30 knots.
Storm	Over 30knots.

Variable	Water temperature – relative (wt_rel)	
Definition	What was the relative water temperature at the time of the rescue?	
Justification	To establish the conditions that were present at the time of the rescue.	
Format	2 digit Numeric	
Coding source		
Coding frame	1	very cold
	2	cold
	3	warm
	9	not known
Comments		

Variable	Tide (tide)	
Definition	What were the tidal conditions at the time of the incident?	
Justification	To establish the conditions that were present on the day of the incident.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source		
Coding frame	1	high tide
	2	out going tide
	3	low tide
	4	incoming tide
	8	not relevant
	9	not known
Comments		

Variable	Sea conditions (sea_con)	
Definition	What were the sea surface conditions at the time of the rescue?	
Justification	To establish the conditions that were present at the time of the rescue.	
Format	1 digit Numeric	
Coding source	Waterways Authority Boating Incident Form	
Coding frame	1	calm
	2	choppy
	3	rough
	4	very rough
	8	not relevant (eg public pool)
	9	not known
Comments		

Variable	Wave height (wave_ht)
Definition	What was the wave height at the time of the rescue?
Justification	To establish the conditions that were present at the time of the rescue.
Format	1 digit Numeric
Coding source	SLS Coastal Incident Database, metres
Coding frame	1 small (0.5-1.0 metres) 2 moderate (1.0-2.0 metres) 3 large (2.0 + metres) 8 not relevant (eg public pool) 9 not known
Comments	<i>Wave height</i> is vertical distance between the top of crest and bottom of trough.

Variable	Incident – text (inc_txt)
Definition	What were the details of the incident including contributing factors
Justification	
Format	text
Coding source	
Coding frame	free text
Comments	Include details of any factors that contributed to the incident taking place? (eg medical condition, unfitness, environmental hazards etc)