



## DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB

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### DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AQUARISTS

The Durban Undersea Club is an environmentally aware club that promotes the protection and conservation of the ocean and its marine inhabitants. DUC members are required to abide by the following code of ethics with regards to collecting marine creatures from all boats bearing a DUC registration

1. Members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner that will uphold the character and interests of DUC
2. The taking of marine creatures from the wild must be sustainable and in compliance with national and international law and conform to the appropriate policies. **See Appendix 1, 5, & 6 below**
3. KZN Wildlife Permits are required for the collection of marine creatures and must be in-date
4. Members may not collect marine species that they do not have the knowledge to properly maintain
5. Marine creatures may not be traded, sold or donated
6. Marine creatures with the expectation of high mortality may not be collected – i.e. animals with specialized diets
7. Marine animals that are rare or endemic may not be collected
8. Collecting of marine animals must not be deleterious to the wild population i.e. the total numbers of any particular species that may be taken at a particular dive site is restricted
9. Every care should be taken when collecting and handling specimens to minimise stress and damage, and to lessen the impact on their habitat
10. All members should agree to abide by this Code of conduct before participating in any dive to collect specimens

### VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The committee of DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB shall have the power to ban, censure, suspend, expel or impose any other discipline, sanction, supervision, or probation on any DUC or non-member in violation of this code of conduct.

## APPENDIX 1

### GENERAL

(1) A person may obtain a recreational fishing permit from an office authorised by the Minister, subject to the payment of a predetermined fee, to engage in one or more of the following types of recreational fishing: Angling, Spearfishing, Cast-netting and Marine Aquarium Fish.

Recreational fishing permits will be endorsed in a manner that indicates which type of fishing or combination of types of fishing the permit holder is entitled to practice.

(2) A recreational fishing permit entitles the holder to catch fish for own use only and not for the purpose of selling or trading fish.

(3) The holder of a recreational fishing permit, endorsed for angling, is entitled to catch fish of the Class Pisces (i.e. bony fish, sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras) only with a rod, reel and line, to which no more than 10 hooks are attached. Specific angling regulations are listed below in sub-regulations 9 and 10.

(4) The holder of a recreational fishing permit, endorsed for spearfishing, is entitled to catch fish of the Class Pisces (i.e. bony fish, sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras) with only a speargun. Specific spearfishing regulations are listed below in sub-regulations 11 and 12.

(5) The holder of a recreational fishing permit, endorsed for cast-netting, is entitled to catch fish listed in Annexure 4 with a cast-net, which is a circular net weighted at the circumference for the purpose of casting, not exceeding 6 m in diameter. Specific cast-netting regulations are listed below in sub-regulations 13 and 14.

(6) The holder of a recreational fishing permit, endorsed for marine aquarium fish, is entitled to catch any fish species not listed in the prohibited list of Annexure 5 for display in an aquarium. Specific marine aquarium regulations are listed below in sub-regulations 15 and 16.

(7) The skipper of a vessel used for any recreational fishing that may be undertaken from a vessel shall be in possession of a recreational fishing permit endorsed for recreational fishing from a vessel.

(8) The holder of a recreational fishing permit, shall not use any artificial respiratory equipment, with the exception of a snorkel, except in the case of marine aquarium fishing.

### Regulations specific to marine aquarium fishing

(15) The holder of a recreational fishing permit endorsed for marine aquarium fish shall not catch, disturb, or land:

- (a) any fish listed in Annexure 5;
- (b) more than five fish per species;
- (c) more fish than the bag-limit listed in respect of each species in species list of Annexure 6 during any one day;
- (d) any fish smaller than, or of a mass less than, the size-limit listed in respect of each species in the *Species List* of Annexure 6;
- (e) any fish during the closed-season listed in respect of each species in the *Species List* of Annexure 6.

(16) The holder of a recreational fishing permit endorsed for marine aquarium fish must:

- (a) immediately transfer all fish caught in terms of this permit to a saltwater aquarium or holding facility of sufficient capacity to sustain the lives of the fish.
- (b) keep a log-book indicating all additions to the aquarium (including those bred or hatched in the aquarium) and losses, indicating the species, origin, and cause of loss.

# ANNEXURE 5

## AQUARIUM FISH

### Regulations governing the harvesting of aquarium recreational fishers.

- (1) A maximum of ten fish may be harvested per day.
- (2) A maximum of five fish per species, which have been collected, may be held in captivity.
- (3) The following species may not be caught.

### Common name Scientific name of species or group

- Hard corals Order *Scleractinia*
- Sea fans Order *Gorgonacea*
- Sea pens Order *Pennatulacea*
- Sand dollars *Echinodiscus* spp.
- Giant clams *Tridacna* spp.
- Abalone *Haliotis* spp.
- Rock lobsters Family *Palinuridae*
- Seahorses and pipefish Family *Syngnathidae*
- Coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*
- Seventy four *Polysteganus undulosus*
- Brindle bass *Promicrops lanceolatus*
- Potato bass *Epinephelus tukula*
- Natal wrasse *Anchichoerops natalensis*
- Great white shark *Charcarodon carcharias*
- Marine mammals (seals, dolphins and whales) Class *Mammalia*

## ANNEXURE 6

### RECREATIONAL ANGLING

#### Species specific regulations applicable to recreational fishers

- 1) The taxa, i.e. genus (denoted "spp."), family or class mentioned in this Annexure refer to all species in the genus, family or class, as the case may be.
- 2) The size of the fish shall be measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme end of the tail.
- 3) All fish that are landed, except sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes), must have head and tail intact such that it can be established whether the fish conforms to the minimum size and / or mass, provided that it may be gutted.
- 4) Any fish caught in contravention of the provisions of the Act or the permit conditions must immediately be returned to the sea with as little injury as possible.
- 5) No fish may be sold or offered for sale by the holder of a recreational fishing permit.**
- 6) Special note should be taken of the size, bag & area limitations with regards to kob (*Argyrosomus* spp.)
- 7) Species not mentioned in either of these lists have a bag limit of ten provided that sharks, rays, skates or chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes) have a bag limit of one and rockcods (Family Serranidae) have a bag limit of five.
- 8) There is an overall cumulative daily bag limit of 10, irrespective of the species caught and provided that this limit does not apply to those species listed here with no bag limit, and to those with a bag limit exceeding 10.**
- 9) There is a closed season for elf / shad (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) from 1 October to 30 November in any year.
- 10) There is a closed season for galjoen (*Dichistius capensis*) from 15 October to the last day of February in the following year.
- 11) The closed season for Chokka squid (*Loligo vulgaris reynaudii*): from 12h00 noon on 19 October to 12h00 noon on 23 November in any year.