



Australian Underwater Federation – Spearfishing
“Safe, Sustainable, Selective Seafood”
www.auf-spearfishing.com.au

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Record tuna and sustainable fishing in the Coral Sea

On the 3rd November 2010, Luke Randell a 34 year old skindiver was spearfishing at Flinders Reef, 160 Nautical miles offshore from Townsville and in the Coral Sea when he captured a 60 kg Dogtooth tuna (*Gymnosarda unicolor*). The capture has been submitted for recognition as a Queensland Australian Underwater Federation spearfishing record.

“I am thrilled and amazed that I was able to land such a huge tuna and that it is a Queensland record. It is a once in a lifetime capture” said Mr Randall.

The capture was filmed for the upcoming “Sustainable Spearfishing in the Coral Sea” DVD by the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) and *Spearfishing the Menu*.

The Coral Sea is one of the best fishing and spearfishing location in Australia and the world. It is renowned for clear, deep water and the abundance and large size of Dogtooth tuna, pelagic fish and healthy shark populations.

The Coral Sea has been proposed for a sanctuary by an international conservation group PEW. The AUF and many recreational fishers and spearfishers believe that this proposal is unrealistic and would severely impact on their activity. The upcoming DVD “Sustainable Spearfishing in the Coral Sea” will share the journey and help communicate the beauty and importance of clear, deep water, large fish, sustainable spearfishing, sharks, adventure and fresh seafood with the community, politicians and stakeholders. In order to make a difference and provide some facts about the Coral Sea and the low impact of selective spearfishing we are working with scientists from James Cook University on biology of Dogtooth tuna, Sharks and catches of fish.

“The Coral Sea is a huge expanse of reefs and it should not be locked up for conservation. There are very few human visits and these are high value economically and socially for tourism and charter boat operators, fishers and some SCUBA divers. Australia has a multi-billion dollar recreational fishing industry and the new generation of fishers and spearfishers want to continue to sustainably access the amazing fish and marine life of the Coral Sea” said Luke Randell.

Excellent underwater photographs and digital video footage available on request.

Media enquires to Luke Randell on 0411468523 or Dr Matthew Koopman 0408582422



The Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) is the national governing body for underwater sports such as underwater hockey, SCUBA, snorkel coaching and training, fin swimming, and spearfishing (a small but selective type of recreational fishing). The AUF is a member of Recfish Australia and is committed to working strategically together with all recreational fishers. The mission of the AUF is-
Bring sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world

www.auf.com.au