



***Data Definitions  
Working Group***

***Further Recommendations***

***July 2023***

## Recommendations:

1. Accept the recommended definitions of twenty-eight fields agreed to by the working group.
2. Change what you can in your systems now to reach the minimum common standard by the end of the 2023/24 financial year, and commit and plan to upgrade to the best practice recommendations as much as possible within the next three years.
3. Make the recommended fields for data alignment within the sector mandatory on collection forms.
4. Distribute the recommended definitions to Stats NZ, ACC, Coronial Services, Surf Life Saving Australia and Royal Life Saving Australia. In particular:
  - ACC is reviewing its ACC45 collection form – there is an opportunity to ask for some of our water based required fields to be included. It is recommended ACC be approached to discuss this opportunity.
  - Coronial Services – coronial findings do not have the same structure. Sometimes the data recommendations are available, and other times not. It is recommended to open conversation with Coronial Services about potentially having the recommended data fields consistently filled out in all coronial findings.
  - Stats NZ holds standards to ensure information is recorded in a consistent way across agencies. It is recommended that Stats NZ be approached to hold the recommended definitions so that other agencies can also refer to them.
5. Submit a proposal to ACC for a collective project if there are resources needed for a system wide change that would benefit everyone from an efficient system: ACC has a requirement to promote measures to reduce the incidence and severity of personal injury and provide a framework for the collection, coordination and analysis of injury-related information which they do by helping those that have come together as a collective around injury prevention.
6. Review organisations current data collections through Māori consultancy. When starting anew – whether a research project or a new database - involve Māori from the beginning, and build in reporting back to communities.
7. Agree to building an API into a weather providing service (e.g. MetService, NIWA) so that all organisations in the sector have access to consistent weather information.
8. Create a standardised ARCGIS layer of water environment types so that for any given coordinates, all organisations are using the exact same environment description.
9. Hold regular training sessions for those people and officers that input into databases to keep data consistent and up to standard.
10. Expand the recommendations to include, and be appropriate for, the entire water safety sector, not just recreational boating (including the need to review these recommendations within the widened scope).
11. Understand that the recommendations are not static and need to be reviewed every three years.
12. Use the recommendations when developing research projects.
13. Implement more follow up information gathering techniques, understanding that data collection at times is not appropriate in the middle of an event.