

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY # 1 – BANNING OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS AT SPUMS EVENTS

SPUMS FUNDAMENTAL VALUES SUPPORT A HEALTHY MARINE ENVIRONMENT

SPUMS is a medical organisation with a unique perspective. We have experienced the undersea environment and we are health experts as physicians. We also understand the human health impacts of a sick marine environment. It is on that basis that SPUMS has developed its environmental policies in an effort to reduce our impact on the marine environment.

BANNING OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC POLICY AT SPUMS EVENTS

SPUMS holds a Scientific Meeting each year for the purposes of sharing scientific advances and education in the field of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, and for developing best practice guidelines in an environment that fosters networking between members. These meetings are frequently held overseas in communities where clean drinking water is a rarity. Plastic pollution is a huge problem for ocean health, and SPUMS does not support single use plastics

- 1. SPUMS will not supply water for delegates in single use plastic bottles.**
- 2. For SPUMS conferences, clean drinking water for delegates shall be supplied in bulk containers. Delegates will be supplied with their own personal multi-use water container. Delegates can then refill their containers from the bulk clean water supply.**
- 3. Plastic straws shall never be used at SPUMS events.**
- 4. Disposable plastic cups shall not be used at SPUMS events for morning or afternoon teas**
- 5. Preferred decorations at SPUMS events shall be from natural sources (eg plants and flowers), and re-usable lighting is preferred, or natural lighting sources**
- 6. Plastic decorations and balloons are not to be used for SPUMS conference events**