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TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc

Oct 2008

BRUNY BIOREGION MPA

The state government handed down their decision in relation to the Bruny Bioregion Marine Protected Area in late September.

The Tasmanian Government announced the creation of 14 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the Bruny bioregion. The Primary Industries and Water Minister, David Llewellyn said the Government intends to establish a comprehensive network of Marine Protected Areas. Mr Llewellyn said this will insure the management of the region's biodiversity and also allow sustainable commercial and recreational fishing to continue.

"Recreational and commercial fishing therefore will not be adversely affected by the new MPAs," Mr Llewellyn said. "I accept the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommendations that the 'no take' boundaries of the existing marine Nature Reserves at Tinderbox and Zone A Ninepin Point be extended. "All other areas recommended by the RPDC will be proclaimed under the Nature Conservation Act as conservation areas and will be subject to management prescriptions that most closely correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status Category VI. "This means that the conservation areas will be managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to the community."

TARFish have been involved in the Bruny Bioregion process since commencement and have provided

significant comment and feedback throughout the duration of the process. TARFish had sought a broad range of views, comment and advice on the issue of Marine Protected Areas.

TARFish, are very pleased that the Government took into consideration the significant social, economic and environmental community needs of all Tasmanians.

The Chief Executive Officer of TARFish, Mark Nikolai, said that the three main aims of Tasmania's 120,000 recreational fishers had been achieved through the Bruny Bioregion MPA process. Recreational fishers were looking for;

1. Sustainable fisheries so that future generations can enjoy the pleasures of the outdoor and recreational fishing and boating,
2. Decision making for the management of our fisheries and environment to be based on relevant scientifically valid information, and
3. Inclusion in the management of fisheries through active consultation.

Mark said that the concerns expressed by recreational fishers had been heard by the Tasmanian Government and that a fair and equitable range of decisions had been reached that effectively balances the needs of the broad range of community stakeholders. TARFish will continue to work with the Tasmanian Government and stakeholders in establishing the remaining network of Marine Protected Areas in Tasmanian waters.

Copies of the full media statements by the government and TARFish are available from our website or by contacting TARFish.

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SCALEFISH RULES REVIEW

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) commenced the first public consultation period for the Scalefish Rules Review in late August.

The Marine Scalefish Rules includes recreational and commercial use of rods, lines and nets to fish for marine fish species, including finfish, sharks, octopus, calamari and squid. The current rules expire in November 2009 and are in force for a period of 5 years.

To inform recreational fishers on the review TARFish held a public meeting at Zeehan on 21st August and St Helens on 19th September. DPIW held public meetings in Stanley and Ulverstone on 9th & 10th September.

In preparing its submission TARFish took the opportunity to suggest that in future:

1. A state wide representative schedule of public meetings should be held in all key marine fishing areas to ensure regional communities are informed on key information they require to prepare a meaningful submission, and
2. Extending the public consultation period to 60 days rather than 30 days which will allow for well researched and considered submissions to be provided.

TARFish noted in its submission that:

1. Recreational fishers are not looking for change for changes sake.
2. Any proposed changes must be supported by scientific information and where not available then decisions should be based on the precautionary principle,

3. Recreational fishers expect the Scalefish Management Plan will be based on an ecosystem based fisheries management approach,
4. Decision making outcomes should be based on sustainable fishing for the future, looking after our fisheries and protecting the environment.

There were over 400 submissions sent to DPIW and the next step will be the release of the Draft Scalefish Rules in February/March 2009.

A copy of our submission is available from our website (Communications page) or by contacting TARFish.

CONTACTING TARFISH

If you would like to contact TARFish to raise an issue, discuss ideas, order your free copy of the Code of Practice or simply talk about our progress and future plans then you can contact us at:

TARFish, GPO Box 2198

Hobart 7001

Email: info@tarfish.org

Website: www.tarfish.org

Telephone: 1300 665 225

Mobile: 0403 868 004 or

Return the Reply Paid card attached

The TARFish Bulletin is a project jointly funded by the Australian Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme and the Tasmanian Government's Department of Primary Industries and Water Fishwise Community Grants program.

RESPONSIBLE FISHING TIPS

The enormous popularity that recreational fishing enjoys in Tasmania can contribute to the decline of fish stocks and to the destruction of vital fish habitat.

Lakes, creeks, rivers, and coasts are used for a variety of purposes. By recognising the rights of others to use the waters for their recreation and livelihood, recreational fishers help ensure that all are equally able to enjoy their activities.

Respecting the rights of others means:

- Being courteous to those whose communities we enter when fishing. Remember this is their home.
- Realising that friendly rivalry can exist between recreational fishers without the need for anyone to dominate.
- Preparing your boat and trailer before launching at boat ramps to avoid annoying delays.

Having access to land held in trust to landowners and traditional owners is a privilege, not a right.

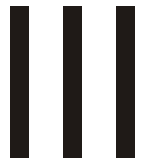
Respecting access rights of others means:

- Recognising the cultural and spiritual attachments indigenous people feel for their land and water.
- Obtaining permission before lighting fires.
- Avoiding interference with land, stock or crops in any way.
- Leaving all gates as they were found.
- Leaving the gun and dog at home to avoid harming or harassing livestock or wildlife.
- Gaining permission before entering land and clearly indicating where you are going.



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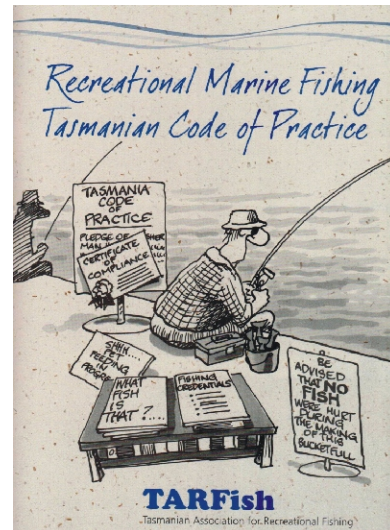
Playing it safe while fishing is good commonsense. Never risk a life while trying to catch a fish.

Caring about safety means:

- Observing and understanding all boating regulations, including the carrying of the required safety equipment.
- Keeping a safe distance from shore-based fishers, jetties, swimmers and other boats.
- Being aware of the dangers of rock fishing and seeking local knowledge of tides and wave conditions.
- Gaining local knowledge of common beach dangers including rip currents, large waves, shore platforms, deep water, offshore reefs and tidal currents.
- Exercising caution and planning for contingencies when fishing. Submerged logs, sudden squalls, icy waters and extremely cold temperatures can create life threatening difficulties.

- Always notifying someone of your fishing destination and estimated time of return.
- Always keeping an eye on the weather.

To find out more about responsible fishing practices pick up your free copy of the Recreational Marine Fishing Code of Practice from all leading marine retailers or by contacting TARFish.



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Box

- Please send me a free copy of the quarterly TARFish Bulletin
- Please send me a free copy of the TARFish Code of Practice
- Please contact me to discuss the recreational fishing issue noted below

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Telephone: _____