

## FISHING ACTIVITIES

TARFish have attended a number of fishing events this year including;

The first round of the Tasmanian Bream Classic held at the Scamander River in early February. Good numbers of large bream were caught by most competitors. An early morning start saw teams of two anglers vying for competition points over a three round competition.

The ABT Bream Competitions held at St Helens in late February and the Derwent River in Hobart in early March. The ABT competition is a national fishing competition. Due to Tasmania's exceptional bream waters we hosted two rounds of the competition. Australia's top bream tournament fishers attended from all parts of Australia with even a couple of international competitors from Singapore.

The St Helens Game Fishing Classic in early March. There were over 85 boats and 300 plus competitors over the weekend. Fine weather conditions prevailed over the competition with reasonable numbers of Albacore Tuna caught out wide. Hundreds of interested spectators attended the weigh in on both days with a number of pending records being recorded.

The Coles Bay Game Fishing Competition held at the end of March. There were in excess of 50 boats and around 200 competitors entered. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious for the competition over both days. The competition only saw 3 hours of fishing on Saturday before deteriorating weather conditions forced officials to cancel fishing for the day. Sunday saw no improvement in the weather and officials were forced to cancel

the days fishing before it started. Whilst there were very few fish caught in the limited fishing time organizers still presented all prizes to competitors with the majority of prize winner's names being drawn out of a hat.

Take a Kid Fishing days held at St Helens in early January and Hobart in early February. Both events were well attended by keen junior anglers. The look of anticipation on children's faces and the obvious enthusiasm shown is why these events are always popular. The Fishcare Volunteers who run these events around Tasmania are a credit to themselves and are always keen to pass on their knowledge and experience. If you would like to become a Fishcare Volunteer or to find out more about their activities contact Avril Brown at DPIW on telephone 03 6233 2033.

For anyone who has not attended a fishing competition or organized fishing activity we encourage you to attend, to see first hand the magnitude of the recreational fishing bug and its hold over all walks of life in Tasmania. Fishing is best enjoyed with family, friends or simply by yourself as you take in all that Tasmania has to offer.

Recreational fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities in Tasmania and its social and economic benefits to the individual, family unit and to the wider community is significant. Get out there and enjoy recreational fishing and take in the magic of Tasmania's spectacular and natural fishing environment.

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.

## BRUNY BIOREGION MPA's

The Final Recommendations Report was released by the Resource Planning and Development Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> March with the public comment period closing on 16 April. TARFish have been heavily involved in the Marine Protected Area Inquiry process since commencement and have provided a response on behalf of recreational fishers on the Final Recommendations Report. The government will now consider the Final Recommendations Report, and all responses received, to determine whether MPA's are to be established in the Bruny Bioregion, their location and management conditions.

## CONTACT TARFISH

If you would like to contact TARFish to raise an issue, discuss ideas or simply talk about our progress and future plans then you can send a letter to:

**TARFish, GPO Box 2198  
Hobart 7001**

**Email: [info@tarfish.org](mailto:info@tarfish.org)**

**Website: [tarfish.org](http://tarfish.org)**

**Telephone: 0403 868 004**

Look out for the TARFish Boat in your area and when you see it introduce yourself to the Chief Executive Office of TARFish, Mark Nikolai.



## RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING INQUIRY

A Legislative Council Select Committee has been appointed to inquire into recreational marine fishing in Tasmania. Public Submissions to the committee closed at the end of February and the Inquiry commenced hearing verbal evidence in early April. TARFish have prepared an extensive submission to the inquiry addressing all areas of the terms of reference. The inquiry is broad reaching in its scope and includes input from Research Authorities, Government Marine agencies, Commercial and Recreational fishing sector groups and associations. Submissions to the inquiry cannot be made publicly available until the committee has reported to Parliament.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING RESEARCH

TARFish Committee representatives are actively involved in the Recreational Research Advisory Group. Our involvement in this group means that we have input and influence over the range of research that is undertaken in the marine environment.

The Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) have an extensive range of research directly focused at recreational fishing.

TAFI have a four year rolling Recreational Fishing Research Plan which includes the key areas of Species Biology and Assessments, Fishery/Management Assessment, Effects of Fishing, Ecosystem Studies, and Social and Economic Assessments.

In future editions of the TARFish Bulletin we will be providing further details on some of the interesting research underway in Tasmania.

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## RESPONSIBLE FISHING

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. Recognition of the need for more responsible and sustainable fishing practices requires fishers to follow a range of activities.

### *Taking no more than your immediate needs.*

A vital way we can participate in conserving fish stocks is to limit our catch by taking only our immediate personal needs. Overfishing has a detrimental effect on fish stocks and in extreme cases, entire fish species. Conserving fish stocks means:

- using commonsense and constraint when fishing, for example, return unwanted, endangered or threatened species to the water

- practicing correct catch and release techniques, and

- carefully returning unwanted live bait to the waters they were taken from. Live bait is an important part of the food chain so it is important to leave some to support the fish we wish to catch in the future

### *Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities.*

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) makes regulations to manage the fisheries for now and the future. To protect fish stocks and fish habitat, report illegal fishing activities to the

relevant authorities. It is important that the fishing community does not ignore activities that threaten the fisheries and damage the reputation of responsible fishers.

Observing fishing regulations means:

- keeping up to date with regulations and observing them because they are based on the best available scientific evidence

- acquainting yourself with bag, size and possession limits

- becoming familiar with existing tackle restrictions and checking the dates of local seasonal closures

- helping to explain fishery regulations and the reasons for them to others, especially children

- reporting illegal fishing activities to the fishwatch service on 0427 655 557, and

- not presuming to act as officers of the law.

### *Supporting and encouraging activities that restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat.*

We are all dependent on healthy ecosystems. Habitat destruction and modification, resulting largely from human activities, presents a huge threat to the maintenance of fish stocks and the availability of other species such as shell fish, rock lobsters and crabs.

Restoring and enhancing fisheries and fish habitat means:

- recognising the fragility and environmental diversity of streamside vegetation, estuaries, seagrass and reefs. These areas provide food, shelter and

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important breeding and nursery areas for many fish species

- participating in research, rehabilitation and monitoring and tagging programs

- educating others, especially children, in sustainable fishing practices

- becoming familiar with the life cycles and breeding seasons of aquatic species and other fauna

- becoming involved in programs that restore coastal and streamside vegetation, and

- never using introduced fish as live bait or introducing exotic fish into natural waters

### *Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish.*

Pollution affects the health of the environment and spoils our experience of the outdoors. Natural areas continue to suffer major problems due to the side effects of human activities. We can help!

Preventing pollution means:

- taking fishing line, polystyrene foam packaging, bottles, six pack holders, bait bags, cups and packaging, etc. away from fishing sites. All items must be disposed of correctly to avoid potentially entrapping birds and other creatures

- not leaving bait to foul rocks, river banks or beaches

- not washing rubbish, chemicals or other waste into stormwater systems. Most stormwater drains run directly into waterways, and

- participating in programs such as "Clean up Australia Day".

### *Using established roads and tracks.*

Off-road driving or "bush-bashing" can be a major cause of erosion and vegetation loss; likewise trampling across dune systems, reef beds and other fragile areas.

Using established roads and tracks means:

- using walking tracks and avoiding driving on beaches. The protection of sand dunes, coastal, and streamside vegetation will help minimise beach and streamside erosion

- avoiding straying from established roads and tracks, and

- treating all natural areas with care.

### *Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damaging sensitive areas.*

Boating increases the range of fishing possibilities but unskilled and thoughtless use of boats can lead to environmental damage.

Taking care when boating means:

- showing care when anchoring, particularly around reef or seagrass areas
- keeping a constant vigil when boating to avoid hitting wildlife, and

- being aware of your boating speed to minimise erosion of riverbanks from excessive wave action, and avoiding modification of or disturbance to fish habitat while diving.