

## WHO IS TARFISH?

TARFish, the Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc., is a fully independent, non government, peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers across all areas of Tasmania.

TARFish was incorporated in January 2004 and certified as the peak recreational fishing body by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water in March 2004.

TARFish has been working, mainly in the background since establishment, on issues that impact on recreational fishing.

TARFish is funded from a combination of member fees and the licence fees paid by recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.

TARFish are very keen to build a strong association which truly reflects the concerns of those who have an interest in recreational fishing.

The Inaugural members of TARFish were:

- Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA)
- Australian National Sportsfishing Association (ANSA)
- Australian Underwater Federation (AUF)
- Sea Charter Boat Operators of Tasmania (SCBOOT)
- Tasmanian Game Fishing Association (TGFA)

## CEO APPOINTED

TARFish has developed as an association since its establishment in 2004 and as part of its continuing growth is very pleased to announce the appointment of its first Chief Executive Officer, Mark Nikolai. Mark comes to the association with a broad professional business background. The Executive Committee of TARFish are pleased to have been able to secure a Chief Executive Officer with Mark's experience, passion for fishing and professional business skills.



Mark is an avid fisherman in freshwater, saltwater and an accredited advanced scuba diver and is thrilled to be appointed to a position where he can combine his commercial business skills with his passion in all forms of recreational fishing. In accepting the position Mark said "I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and key recreational fishing stakeholders to ensure TARFish continues its development and remains an effective representative association."

# TARFish Bulletin

## NEW WEBSITE & BULLETIN

As part of the public launch of TARFish we have updated our website ([www.tarfish.org](http://www.tarfish.org)).

We want to use the website as an effective and efficient channel of communication and information distribution for recreational fishers.

The website will be continuously updated with relevant information that recreational fishers will find of interest.

The other key communication tool that we will be producing is a quarterly Bulletin. The Bulletin will be distributed in January, April, July & October each year and will be available on our website, at participating tackle shops, marine retailers & dive shops.

TARFish is committed to the environmentally sensible use of materials and to that end we have a preference to communicate and distribute information via an electronic method, ie email & our website.

We realize not everyone has access to electronic communications and we will happily provide hardcopy when requested.

To receive your free copy of our Bulletin please email [info@tarfish.org](mailto:info@tarfish.org) or send your postal details to:

TARFish  
GPO Box 2198  
Hobart 7001.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

1) *To provide a forum for recreational fishers to raise relevant issues.* We will use various methods to establish an effective forum process including email, personal contact, attending public meetings and participating in government, community and industry relevant activities and functions.

2) *To represent the interests of recreational fishers in communication with government, commercial fishers, industry, research bodies & the community.* We will achieve this by establishing strong relationships & representation with all key stakeholders to ensure we are an effective representative association.

3) *To communicate information to recreational fishers.* We will achieve this by regular website updates, a quarterly newsletter, public presentations, brochures and media releases in relevant media channels.

4) *To educate the community on environmental and recreational fishing issues.* We will achieve this through a combination of representation at trade shows, production of topical brochures, bulletins and regular communications to interested parties.

5) *To promote the wise use and conservation of fish stocks and habitat.* TARFish have adopted the national Code of Practice for recreational fishing developed by Recfish Australia.

# TARFish Bulletin

## TARFish BENEFITS

TARFish believes the following benefits will be provided to recreational fishers through a strong, government recognised, representative association:

- The identification of issues causing concern to the recreational fishing sector
- The strength of a single unified voice speaking to government, industry and the community
- The protection of recreational fishing interests
- The communication of relevant information
- The promotion of good fishing practices and respect for the environment

Through TARFish's peak body recognition we have representation on:

- Recfish Australia – the nationally recognised peak body for recreational fishers
- RecFAC – Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee
- TasFRAB – Tasmanian Fisheries Research Advisory Board
- RecRAG – Recreational Fishery Research Advisory Group hosted by TAFI (Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute)

Strong representation benefits fishers.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING ISSUES

TARFish are currently monitoring issues that may have an impact on recreational fishing activities and some of these include:

- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
- Threats such as Long Spined Sea Urchin and Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)
- Development of an International Code of Practice for recreational fishing
- Socio/economic benefits recreational fishing contributes, directly and indirectly, to Tasmania's economy
- The impacts of global warming on fish habitats and species populations
- Legislative regulations on recreational fishing
- Sustainable and environmentally sensible fishing practices
- Provision of recreational fishing facilities and infrastructure

If you have concerns about an issue that you feel we should be monitoring simply contact us with the relevant details.

TARFish  
GPO Box 2198  
Hobart 7001

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

# TARFish Bulletin

## CODE OF PRACTICE

TARFish have recently adopted the, voluntary, National Code of Practice for Recreational & Sport Fishing established by Recfish Australia. Recfish Australia is your voice to the Australian Federal Government as a recreational fisher. TARFish are a member of Recfish Australia and TARFish firmly believes the adoption of a standardised Code of Practice in Tasmania will promote and educate recreational fishers in responsible and sustainable fishing practices.

We will be providing more detailed information on the Code of Practice later in the year.

The Code of Practice addresses 4 main areas of fishing responsibility:

1. Looking after our fisheries
2. Protecting the environment
3. Treating fish humanely and
4. Respecting the rights of others

If you would like to comment on the Code of Practice please send your feedback to:

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Hobart 7001

Or by email to [info@tarfish.org](mailto:info@tarfish.org)

1. *Looking After our fisheries*
  - 1.1. Taking no more than your immediate needs
  - 1.2. Understanding and observing all fishing regulations
  - 1.3. Reporting illegal fishing activities
  - 1.4. Supporting and encouraging activities that restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
2. *Protecting the environment*
  - 2.1. Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
  - 2.2. Using established roads and tracks
  - 2.3. Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damaging sensitive areas
  - 2.4. Reporting environmental damage and pollution
  - 2.5. Avoiding interactions with threatened species and their critical habitat
3. *Treating fish humanely*
  - 3.1. Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
  - 3.2. Using only legal tackle, attending your gear and valuing our catch
4. *Respecting the rights of others*
  - 4.1. Practicing courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
  - 4.2. Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering
  - 4.3. Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing

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. TARFish greatly appreciates the support the Commonwealth and State Government provides which ensures we can regularly communicate with recreational fishers.