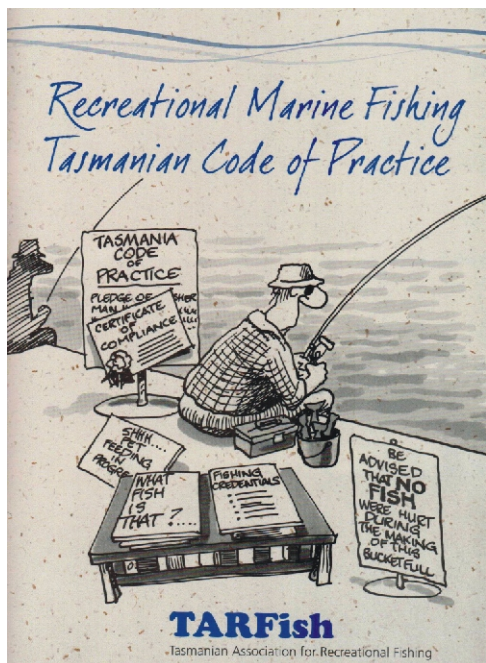


CODE OF PRACTICE RELEASED



TARFish have released the Recreational Marine Fishing Code of Practice in June. The code is designed to be complimentary to the recreational marine fishing rules and regulations and the Recreational Sea Fishing Guide as published by the Department of Primary Industries and Water.

Copies of the code are available from all leading marine retail outlets around Tasmania or by contacting TARFish who will post out your free copy.

Feedback to TARFish from the retail marine outlets who are distributing the booklet have indicated that a code has been needed for a long time and the style and content of the published code will see it become a valuable booklet for recreational marine fishers.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai said that TARFish have produced the marine Code of Practice as an important measure to ensure recreational marine fishers are aware of what it takes to contribute to sustainable fishing in Tasmania.

STANLEY PIER CLOSED

TasPorts have advised that “The Breakwater Wharf Finger Pier at the Port of Stanley will be closed to the public for safety reasons effective 23 April 2008.” Engineer's reports have recommended closure and removal of the pier.

The local community are bitterly disappointed at the closure and the Stanley Chamber of Commerce have established a sub-committee to represent the interests of the local community. TARFish have been invited to assist the recreational fishing community in their endeavours.

Mark Nikolai was the guest speaker at a public meeting held on 2 June at Stanley where around 60 concerned locals attended to voice their disappointment at the closure.

Mark met with TasPorts, prior to the public meeting, and TasPorts have indicated they are prepared to discuss options available to the local community around access to an appropriate recreational fishing structure in Stanley.

The significant social and economic impacts of the pier closure were made to attendees at the public meeting which included Bryan Green (Labour Member for Braddon), Jeremy Rockliff (Liberal Member for Braddon) and TasPorts Property Manager John Toohey. Will Hodgman (Leader of the Liberal Party) also inspected the pier the day after the public meeting and received a briefing from keen local recreational fisher Alan Wolf.

TARFish will continue to work with the local community to ensure that recreational fishers have continued access to this very popular fishing location.

TARFish Bulletin

MARINE STRUCTURES

Access to Marine Structures (jetties and piers) in Tasmania for recreational fishers is coming under renewed and constant pressure. Recent pier closures at Stanley, Triabunna, and rumours about Smithton, Ulverstone and other structures around Tasmanian coastal communities have only highlighted the issue of continuing fisher access.

Neil Stump from the Tasmanian Fisheries Industry Council has recently been promoting the idea that marine structures should come under a single managing authority such as Marine and Safety Tasmania. Having a single Management Authority would simplify the current approach where ownership of the piers and jetties can be with various different bodies including the State Government, TasPorts, Local Councils, Rotary Clubs and private ownership.

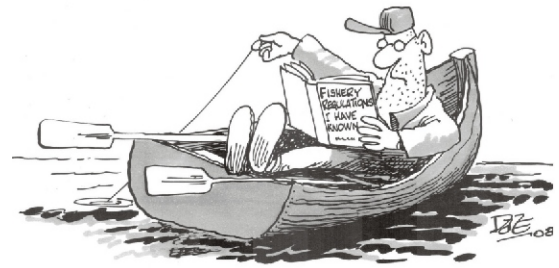
The current process has resulted in a number of structures falling into a state of disrepair with subsequent restricted access.

The Department of Primary Industry and Water have almost completed a two year Marine Structures Assessment Project in close liaison with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and local government.

The aims of the project are:

1. To have a workable system in place to ensure that all marine structures on Crown Land and Reserved land are in a sound and safe condition and are properly maintained for the safety and enjoyment of users.
2. To ensure that all marine structures on Crown and Reserved land are managed within a framework of legal/licence agreements.

TARFish will be raising the issues around continuing access to marine structures for recreational fishers with the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn at our regular quarterly meeting and seeking a strategic approach to improve the current system around marine structure management.



"KNOW YOUR FISHING REGULATIONS"

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: tarfish.org

Telephone: 6239 9856

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

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. Reduce the impacts by:

Reporting environmental damage and pollution to the relevant authorities.

The protection of the environment is everyone's responsibility. By reporting pollution problems to the relevant authorities, we help ensure that our waters become pollutant free and discourage practices that destroy fish habitat.

Reporting environment damage means:

Reporting stranded or dead aquatic animals and protected species.

Reporting any signs of discharge of polluted waste waters and runoff containing fertilisers and pesticides.

Reporting any vegetation or stream damage, e.g. sedimentation, declining water quality, algae, etc.

Reporting sightings of suspected introduced marine pests.

Reporting any fuel and oil spills.

Avoiding interactions with threatened species and their natural habitat.

While fishing and accessing fishing grounds it is easy to inadvertently disturb the habitats of protected species or disturb the species themselves. Habitat destruction and modification are the major threat to the continued survival of threatened species.

Avoiding threatened species means:

Being aware of and avoiding disturbance to threatened species that inhabit areas you intend to fish.

Observing and obeying signage or guidelines in areas where threatened species live.

Obeying guidelines for activity in the vicinity of marine mammals.

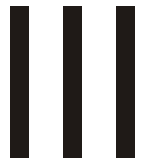
Reporting any inappropriate behaviour you witness which may affect threatened species.

Reporting sightings of threatened species in distress.

Quickly and correctly returning to the water any inadvertently caught threatened species.

Delivery Address:
GPO Box 2198
HOBART TAS 7001

No stamp required
if posted in Australia



TARFISH
Reply Paid 83188
HOBART TAS 7001

Responsible Fishing

Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water

Incorrect handling damages fish and reduces their chances of survival after release. A fish out of water cannot live for more than three or four minutes because of brain damage caused by lack of oxygen. An exhausted fish played too long, may not recover.

Correctly returning fish means:

Using 'fish friendly' gear at every opportunity. Includes circle hooks, knotless landing nets and barbless hooks on lures.

Retrieving fish as quickly as possible.

Cutting the line when fish are deeply hooked.

Using wet hands and a minimum of handling to ensure that released fish have a good chance of survival.

Reviving tired or semi conscious fish. Hold the fish gently and move it forward to force water through its gills. When it has revived, and is able to swim normally, set it free.

Avoiding interactions with threatened species and their natural habitat.

Good treatment and handling of fish is not just about maintaining table fish quality. It is also a mark of respect that fishers have for fish.

Treating fish humanely and avoiding waste means:

Attending gear to ensure that fish are retrieved as soon as they are caught.

Dispatching fish immediately with a firm tap on the head with a suitable blunt object or by pithing.

Icing fish down and storing them away from sunlight, preferably in a moist bag or cooler.

Using only tackle that is appropriate for the size and type of fish.

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.

Tick
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: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____