



FREE

TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc

Feb 2009

JOIN TARFish IT'S FREE

The Chief Executive Officer of TARFish, Mark Nikolai, has been busy during 2008 in raising the public profile of the association. He attended most of the fishing competitions in Tasmania, held public meetings on the West, North West and East Coasts and had display's at the Royal Hobart Show, the Deegan Marine Boat Show in Ulverstone and the Leisure and Boating Expo at the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania at Lindisfarne.

A constant question raised by a large number of people Mark spoke to wanted to know how they could support TARFish, the government recognized fully independent peak body which had been established to represent the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania. Mark explained that the current rules of the association limited membership of TARFish to the organisation level and did not provide a level of individual membership.

Due to the significant public interest in wanting to join and support TARFish Mark discussed the issue with the TARFish Committee and it was agreed that there would be significant benefits in changing the association's rules to allow individual membership.

TARFish continues to grow and mature as an association and remains committed and flexible to the needs of Tasmania's recreational marine fishing community.

If you would like to join and support TARFish simply fill out a Member Application Form. Application forms are available from all leading marine retailers, on our website or by contacting TARFish.

SCALEFISH RULES REVIEW

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.

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

DPIW received over 400 public submissions following the closure, at the end of September, of the Initial Public Comment period. A copy of the consolidated public submissions and the Final Report on the First Consultation Phase December 2008 is available from our website on the Communications page.

DPIW have organised a Working Group of recreational, commercial and government stakeholders to work through the issues identified and make recommendations in relation to the content of the Draft Rules.

The Draft Scalefish Rules will be released in March 2009 and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the released draft rules.

TARFish will be organising state wide information evenings in major regional areas around the state once the Draft Rules are released to explain and discuss the content.

A copy of the TARFish Initial Public Comment submission is available from our website on the Communications page or by contacting TARFish.

RECREATIONAL FISHING INQUIRY

A Legislative Council Select Committee was appointed in early 2008 to inquire into recreational marine fishing in Tasmania. Public Submissions to the committee closed at the end of February 2008 and the Inquiry commenced hearing verbal evidence in early April. TARFish 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.

TARFish, and recreational marine fishers, await the recommendations of the state wide inquiry which can hopefully be used to strengthen recreational marine fishing interests.

SCBOOT JOINS TARFish

The Sea Charter Boat Operators of Tasmania (SCBOOT) have decided to rejoin TARFish as a financial member. SCBOOT is the peak representative organisation for those involved in providing marine charter boat tourism orientated activities.

The association provides a platform to liaise with all stakeholders, is a not for profit incorporated association formed around 10 years ago, with a membership of approximately 39 accredited charter operators located around Tasmania including the Bass Strait Islands. For further information on SCBOOT go to their website at www.scboot.org

TARFish WEBSITE

The TARFish website was updated during 2008 and has become a valuable communication channel for our association. We are able to provide real time information that is up to date and relevant to recreational marine fishers.

The What's New page is updated regularly with topical issues, happenings and recent news releases.

You can download a copy of the Associations Rules, Strategic Plan, Members and Delegates Charter and our Representatives Handbook from the Association page.

On the Communication page you can download copies of Government reports, TARFish Bulletins, Research Reports such as the Recreational Scallop Report 2008 prepared by the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) and the Recreational Marine Fishing Code of Practice published by TARFish in 2008. You can also subscribe to an electronic copy of future editions of the TARFish Bulletin and Media Releases.

The Project page contains brief details on the range of projects that are planned or underway that has some benefit for recreational marine fishers. It is amazing how much is happening at any given time of the year by the various researchers, government agencies and fishing organisations.

The Competition page lists the major fishing competitions that are scheduled for 2009 with the key contact details listed should you require additional information or want to enter.

SUBTIDAL REEF MONITORING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROJECT

Many divers have seen disturbing changes in the oceans over the last few decades including the loss of Giant Kelp beds, declines in some fish species, more invasive marine pests and the effects of climate change warming the East Coast of Tasmania.

These threats indicate a wider problem with the health of our oceans and show that Tasmania's unique underwater wilderness is going through a period of major change. Local recreational dive clubs have decided that they want to do more to assist scientists in gaining a better understanding of our changing marine environment.

Sub-tidal reef monitoring is an area where recreational divers can do vital work to add to this body of knowledge. A major catalyst for the project has been the appearance of devastating urchin barrens off the East Coast of Tasmania caused by *Centrostephanus Rodgersii*, the Long Spined Sea Urchin.

Monitoring the spread of these barrens has been selected as the priority task for the first stage of this project. The Tasmanian Scuba Diving Club is the coordinator of the project along with partner scuba diving clubs.

The Long Spined Sea Urchin is an identified significant threat to the marine ecosystem in Tasmania and TARFish sits on a Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute *Centrostephanus* Steering Committee looking into appropriate research initiatives to combat this marine pest.

STUDY ON BOATIES

Boaties in Tasmania have been urged to volunteer for a world-first study which is gathering information about recreational boat users. The National Marine Safety Committee called for 120 volunteers from Tasmania for the 18 month study, which started in September 2008. Committee chief executive Maureen Horder said Tasmania had 24,689 registered boat users, so the research needed a good representation from the state.

Volunteers are given regular study updates, boating and fishing prize draws and product discounts. Participants need to fill out a diary between September 2008 and May 2010. Further information is available by calling (02) 9247 2124, or go to www.nmsc.gov.au. TARFish are participating in the study to contribute to this important national safety initiative.

WOMEN ON WATER

TARFish attended the 2009 Inaugural Women on Water Fishing Competition held on the 10th January at St Helens. The St Helens Gamefishing Club established the competition to encourage females of all ages to participate in recreational and sport fishing in Tasmania.

The weather was not kind on the day and the team entries were below expectations but the enthusiasm shown by those who did attend was heartening and encouraging. The event was organised as a fun event with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Research. The St Helens Game Fishing Club are commended for their efforts in organizing such a worthwhile event.

TAFI ANGLER LOGBOOK PROGRAM

The Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) has recently introduced a Research Angler Logbook Program. Programs such as these have proven useful for providing important information on recreational fisheries around the world, including Victoria and Western Australia within Australia.

The logbook aims to gather information across all Marine fisheries, including: game fishing, offshore/inshore/estuarine line, potting, netting and diving. For more information on the program contact Sean Tracey at TAFI on 6227 7286 or email r.alp@utas.edu.au.

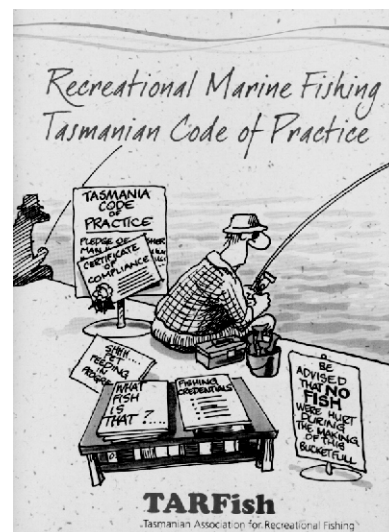
TARFish have been participating in the program since early December and encourage recreational marine fishers to get involved in the program.

PIRATES BAY FACILITY UPGRADE

The recreational fishing facilities at Pirates Bay at Eaglehawk Neck are nearing completion and Marine and Safety Tasmania, Tasman Council and Parks and Wildlife Service are to be congratulated on the overall outcome. The dedicated car and trailer parking, improved boat ramp and boarding platforms and resurfaced grounds around the Tuna Club of Tasmania are a credit to all involved. This is truly a first class recreational fishing facility that will benefit the local community.

RESPONSIBLE FISHING

Responsible and sustainable fishing practices will ensure fish for the future. To find out more about responsible fishing practices pick up your free copy of the TARFish Recreational Marine Fishing Code of Practice from all leading marine retailers or by contacting TARFish.



CONTACTING TARFISH

If you would like to contact TARFish to raise an issue, discuss ideas, or simply talk about our progress and future plans please 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