

FREE

TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc

June 2009

JOIN TARFish – IT'S FREE

TARFish continues to grow and mature as an association and remains committed and flexible to the needs of Tasmania's recreational marine fishing community. As a member of TARFish you will be supporting the only government recognised, independent peak body which was established in 2004 to look after the interests of recreational marine fishers.

The Chief Executive Officer of TARFish, Mark Nikolai, has raised in various public meetings and events during 2008/09 the importance for recreational fishers to be seen to be a united group when representing their interests to government, researchers and the commercial sectors. Mark has noted that recreational marine fishers have been, historically, a fractured group and due to this, have had limited ability to effectively look after their own interests across a broad range of issues with stakeholders.

Division and a lack of cohesion have resulted in recreational marine fishers being seen to be their own worst enemy and diluting the power that is available to them in advocacy and lobbying for improvements and cooperation with stakeholders. As with all like-minded organisations and individuals we need to agree to disagree about some issues but remain united in our efforts for the benefit of the total recreational fishing community throughout Tasmania.

Individuals, fishing clubs and regional recreational fishing organisations are encouraged to join TARFish and enjoy the support and benefits associated with membership of the state-wide peak body. As a member you, or your club/organisation, will receive a free quarterly TARFish Bulletin mailed directly to you to keep you informed

and updated on issues and happenings in the recreational marine fishing environment. If you would like to join and support your own interests through membership of TARFish simply fill out a Member Application Form. Application forms are available on our website or by contacting TARFish.

ROCK LOBSTER REVIEW

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) have commenced the process for a review of the Rock Lobster Rules which expire in 2011. TARFish were involved in the first Working Group meeting which was held in April. State wide representation from recreational fishers, commercial fishers, marine researchers and DPIW personnel make up the working group.

The first meeting was more of an information and discussion session with further meetings of the Working Group to be scheduled later this year. The commercial rock lobster fishers association has flagged that they have some concerns about the accuracy of the annual estimated recreational catch level however they have indicated they are not looking for the recreational sector to reduce their minimum 170t annual rock lobster allocation which was agreed by all parties at the previous Rules Review.

Alternate methods of calculating the catch were briefly discussed and we will be following this issue closely to ensure unnecessary complexity is not created and any possible alternative calculation methods are based on best practice, workable, cost effective and efficient.

ABALONE RULES REVIEW

DPIW have commenced the review of the Abalone Rules which expire in late 2009. A Working Group has been established, which includes TARFish representation, and the first meeting was held in February. All of the issues discussed at the first meeting involve amendments to the commercial fishery with no impacts on the recreational sector. TARFish will update you as this process develops but at this stage it appears likely that impacts on the recreational sector will be minimal, if at all.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

TARFish are a member of the Recreational Fishing Research Advisory Group (RecRAG) which met in April to discuss and agree the research needs and priorities for 2009/10 for the recreational marine fishing community. RecRAG meets annually to reassess progress on previous research priorities and assess new research priorities, if applicable.

Priorities in order of importance for 2009/10 from the recreational fishing representatives present included;

1. Social and economic assessment of recreational fishing.
2. Evaluation of recreational gillnetting practices.
3. Ecological impacts of fishing

TAFI will now seek funding sources for the research priorities and develop project proposals in consultation with the recreational fishing representatives on RecRAG.



SCALEFISH RULES REVIEW

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) commenced the first public consultation period for the review of the Scalefish Rules in late August 2008. 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 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. A second round of public meetings was held by DPIW in March/April 2009 to discuss the intended content of the Draft Rules and over 300 people attending the 12 meetings. TARFish attended all meetings and debate and discussion was lively and passionate at most meetings which was good to see.

DPIW have publically released the Draft Scalefish Rules with public submissions on the Draft Rules to be provided to DPIW by 22 June 2009. As reiterated by DPIW at the public meetings if you want to have your point of view considered it must be made in writing to DPIW by the closing date of public submissions.

Public submissions can be posted to DPIW, GPO Box 44, Hobart, 7001 or emailed fishreview@dpiw.tas.gov.au or faxed to 03 6223 1539.



RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING INQUIRY

A Legislative Council Select Committee was appointed in early 2008 to inquire into recreational marine fishing in Tasmania. 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. We will continue to monitor this inquiry and push for its timely conclusion.

REDMAP PROJECT

If you catch something not usually found in your favourite fishing spot, this will be your chance to tell the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) about it. TAFI's Rebecca Brown, REDMAP Officer, has almost finalised completion of the Range Extention Database and Mapping Project (REDMAP).

REDMAP is a website that will track what species are extending or shifting habitat range as a result of changing water temperature and climate change.

REDMAP will focus on the Tasmanian marine environments and incorporate a marine species database and interactive website. This will enable Tasmanian recreational, commercial

and charter fishers, divers and scientists to record species caught or observed outside of their normal range. The website will be online in September so keep an eye out for updates.

TARFish have been an enthusiastic supporter of the REDMAP Project since being approached by Rebecca in 2008. Rebecca provided an informative briefing to the TARFish Committee in May on the project and we encourage recreational fishers to get actively involved in supporting this project through completing the online database or the hardcopy forms that will be made available through good marine retailers.

RECREATIONAL BOATING

Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) conducted a series of statewide public meetings during May to discuss the submissions they received following their call for recreational boating fund project proposals. Successful projects are funded from recreational boating registration fees and the projects are for the benefit of recreational boaters. MAST works closely with local community councils and stakeholders in relation to project proposals.

TARFish attended the meeting held in Hobart where all project proposals for Tasmania were discussed. There has been a significant number and spread of project proposals submitted to MAST who will be finalizing the submissions and presenting to the MAST Board for consideration in June.

MAST have instigated a number of changes to the recreational boating fund process for 2009. The aim of the

TARFish – looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers

changes has been to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall process and judging from the feedback provided by attendees at the public meetings the changes have been welcomed as positive enhancements. We will monitor the outcomes of the MAST Board decisions in relation to the project submissions and update you on the successful projects in the next TARFish Bulletin.

STATEWIDE FISHING SURVEY

TAFI have completed the data collection of information for the 2007/08 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey. Analysis of the information is currently underway with results expected to be available to the public in the second half of 2009. The results of the survey will be of interest to recreational fishers and other stakeholders. Some of the information will be of specific interest in relation to the upcoming Abalone and Rock Lobster Rules Reviews which have commenced earlier this year.

PROSSER RIVER DREDGING

Following a concerted effort by the local community and concerned campaigners the Prosser River mouth at Orford on the East Coast was dredged in May following 2 years of pressure and lobbying. Access to the sea had become all but impossible for boat owners with the exception of dinghies and canoes at high tide due to a build-up of sand at the river entrance to Spring Bay caused by the river mouth being diverted in 2002.

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

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