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Recreational Marine Fishers Want More Responsibility

Recreational fishing is the most popular form of recreation in Tasmania with over 128,000 recreational fishers and nearly 27,000 registered boats. The National Recreational Fishing Survey 2000-01 showed that recreational fishers spend over \$50 million each year on pursuing their passion in Tasmania. Recreational fishing is a large economic and social contributor to our unique way of life, 1 in 4 Tasmanians participate in recreational fishing, which is higher than anywhere else in Australia. Recreational fishers put in an estimated 640,000 days of effort each year and fish on average for 5 days each year with 75% of total fishing effort in the saltwater (marine) environment

The recreational marine fishing community understands the many financial and non financial challenges that the new Tasmanian Government faces after the March election. Recreational marine fishers do not want special treatment to be extended to their sector but do require the new government to recognise the valuable contribution it makes. As the independent government recognised peak body established to look after the interests of recreational marine fishers TARFish have developed a list of actions in an endeavour to assist the new government in focusing their efforts to improve recreational marine fishing opportunities.

The Action List has been developed to:

- 1) Support improved fisheries management of public marine resources
- 2) Quantify and recognise the “value” of recreational marine fishing
- 3) Ensure licence fee revenue supports recreational marine fishing
- 4) Expand recreational marine fishing research
- 5) Support ongoing maintenance of marine fishing facilities
- 6) Expand recreational fishing representation to all ministerial advisory bodies

TARFish call on all 3 political parties to respond to the Action List and let Tasmania’s recreational marine fishing community know how they will assist us in improving recreational marine fishing in Tasmania. Recreational marine fishers are committed to sustainable fishing practices, working with government to manage the precious marine environment and implementing meaningful regulations supported by rigorous scientific research.

Contact Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer on 0403 868 004 or 1300 665 225 for further information.

TARFish is the independent, government recognised peak body looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.