



Response to
DRAFT
"Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy
2021-2030"

(July 2021)

Introduction

TARFish welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the *Draft Recreational Sea-fishing Strategy 2021-30* and appreciates the complexity of developing a state-wide, 10-year recreational fishing strategy. We wish to acknowledge the significant effort and resource that has been applied to its development by the State Government.

Most importantly, recreational fishers around Tasmania have contributed significantly through responses to surveys, attending forums and writing their own submissions. TARFish congratulate and thank them for their contribution. As the representative organisation for recreational sea fishers, we must form our views from those that have contributed and combine them with the expertise and experience of our Board.

In providing this response, our aim is to make a positive and constructive contribution to the future of recreational sea fishing on behalf of our members and wider recreational fishing sector whilst recognising that there are long-held frustrations that must be dealt with to ensure that this strategy is well supported throughout its 10-year tenure.

For many recreational fishers, the old saying “the proof will be in the pudding” will apply to this strategy. There are high levels of scepticism that the strategy may be a vehicle to deliver further cuts and restrictions to them and further benefits to other resource users.

It will be extremely important that tangible demonstrations of the beneficial effect of the strategy be evidenced quickly. TARFish encourages the State Government to engage early and actively to deliver on some of the key elements of the strategy, particularly around resource sharing.

TARFish welcomes the commitment to report annually on progress and a mid-term review of the strategy that will enable adjustments to the strategy to be made. This flexibility will ensure that the strategy remains relevant throughout the period.

Finally, TARFish welcomes the commitment of the Tasmanian Government to “*seek working partnerships with other organisations including government and non-government and community organisations.*” This will ensure that the strategy is dispersed and owned by the fishers to give practical effect to it.

Executive Summary

TARFish is supportive of the strategy overall and has considered it in light of what policy and strategy exists in other jurisdictions, feedback from recreational fishers and TARFish’s own policy positions.

In offering that support, TARFish has identified several critical issues and opportunities that have not been considered or not sufficiently addressed in the strategy.

1. The vision should be strengthened and broadened, and the alternative vision proposed by TARFish adopted.
“To deliver the best recreational fishing to Tasmanians by ensuring; fair, safe, and protected access to abundant fisheries and healthy habitats consistent with community values.”
2. The draft strategy does not include any relationship to any other policy framework for fisheries management in a broad and sustained way. Specifically;
 - a. No integrated marine and coastal policy
 - b. No resource sharing framework to guide development of resource sharing arrangements
3. Does not sufficiently approach the need for habitat restoration and pest management, particularly in terms of actions and in light of climate change impacts.
4. Needs to be affirmative in the protections for recreational fishers which are currently insufficient
5. The aim should be for long-term abundance, not just sustainability of fish stocks
6. Key terms like sustainability, resource sharing and harvest strategy need definitions

Summary of recommendations

SECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS
Vision	<p>The vision is strengthened and broadened, and the alternative vision proposed by TARFish adopted.</p> <p><i>"To deliver the best recreational fishing to Tasmanians by ensuring: fair, safe, and protected access to abundant fisheries and healthy habitats consistent with community values."</i></p>
Outcome 1	<p>That the outcome include reference to the equitable distribution of available fish stocks in line with the Tasmanian Liberal Policy "Investing in Improved Facilities for Recreational Fishers and Local Communities" which commits to the equitable and sustainable level at which fish can be taken by recreational fishers through the development of harvest strategies.</p> <p>Revise the performance measures as recommended below: Measurable improvements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection and understanding of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries. - Demonstrated inclusion of recreational fishing values and aspirations in legislation, policy and management; and - Developed and implemented resource sharing framework and agreements for key species that are broadly supported by recreational fishers implemented. - Management that is responsive to the changing needs of recreational fishers. <p>The principles be strengthened to provide clarity and certainty in their support for recreational fishing values and interest.</p> <p>The actions be strengthened as recommended in the detailed response as well as adding a new action to develop a resource sharing framework.</p>
Outcome 2	<p>Increase the opportunity for fishers to be involved by increasing the ambition and opportunity articulated in Outcome 2 to better reflect the wants of recreational fishers.</p> <p>The State Government coordinate a working group to review existing stewardship programs and develop a risk rated list of potential programs and funding options with a view to outsourcing, streamlining, and funding stewardship programs.</p> <p>Add a principle, "Improve the capacity and capability of recreational fishers to undertake stewardship programs through non-government organisations."</p> <p>Add an action to "Transparency regarding the expenditure and return to recreational fishers from licence fees via published annual information.</p>
Outcome 3:	Supported, no further recommendations

SECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS
Outcome 4:	<p>Remove the 'do the right thing' in brackets from the principle "<i>resource stewardship ('do the right thing') is preferable to fishing behaviour prompted by compliance deterrents</i></p> <p>That more ambitious actions are included in this section</p>
Outcome 5:	<p>The aim should be for long-term abundance, not just sustainability of fish stocks.</p> <p>Add a principle "Stewardship and behaviour modification programs have a role in sea fisheries management"</p> <p>Inclusion of action(s) that specifically address habitat restoration and pest management.</p>
Outcome 6:	<p>Delete the principle "Monies collected through recreational sea fishing licences will be used for recreational fishing"</p> <p>Add a principle "Monies collected through recreational sea fishing licence fees will be used exclusively for managing the species and gear types to which they are applied."</p> <p>Add an action "Review current licence fees and expenditure and ensure that monies collected through recreational sea fishing licence fees will be used exclusively for managing the species and gear types to which they are applied with a view to reducing licence fees if they are used to cross-subsidise other activities."</p>

Response to recreational sea fishing: 10 year vision

The vision underpinning the strategy is stated as "*The diverse recreational fishing aspirations of Tasmanians are met by promoting shared responsibility for stewardship and making sure our fish stocks are managed sustainably.*"

It is TARFish's view that the vision is limited in scope and insufficiently robust for recreational fishers to have confidence that their needs and aspirations will be met. Specifically, the vision provides two options to meet their aspirations (1) shared responsibility for stewardship and (2) fish stocks that are managed sustainably. Singly and collectively these two elements fail to deliver any certainty to recreational fishers in terms of protected access. In addition, the sustainable management of fish stocks could mean that they are merely managed to ensure their survival. This is not sufficient to ensure abundant fish stocks which leads directly to fisher satisfaction. It appears that this is a lowest 'red line' management approach to fish stocks which in turn increases risk to fisheries and potential for conflict amongst sector users.

Further, the vision is silent on the following key elements:

- Fair and protected access
- Well managed fisheries
- Healthy habitats
- Safe, easy and inclusive access.
- Alignment with community values

These elements are essential to the quality of the fishing experience and ensuring it can be maintained and therefore meeting the aspirations of recreational fishers.

TARFish provided an alternative vision in its response to the discussion paper and re-states it here:

“To deliver the best recreational fishing to Tasmanians by ensuring; fair, safe, and protected access to abundant fisheries and healthy habitats consistent with community values.”

The alternative aligns with TARFish’s priorities on behalf of Tasmania’s recreational marine fishers.

Recommendation: The vision is strengthened and broadened, and the alternative vision proposed by TARFish (re-stated below) adopted.

“To deliver the best recreational fishing to Tasmanians by ensuring; fair, safe, and protected access to abundant fisheries and healthy habitats consistent with community values.”

Response to Outcome 1: Valuing recreational sea fishing

Recreational fishers are heavily focussed on the evidence of this outcome through the commitments and actions underpinning it.

TARFish welcomes the inclusion of a commitment to develop policy on area management, fishing allocation and resource sharing.

Importantly, the 2021 Liberal Policy “Protecting the Tasmanian Way of Life and Recreational Sea Fishing” explicitly states a re-elected Majority Liberal Government will *“Develop harvest strategies for abalone, rock lobster, scallop and key recreational scalefish species to safeguard fish stocks and incorporate recreational fishing goals”*

It goes on to state *“This initiative will establish an overall understanding of stock levels which then inform the equitable (TARFish emphasis) and sustainable level at which fish can be taken by commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers.”*

It is TARFish’s strong view that this outcome does not sufficiently reflect the commitment given in the election policy to the *“equitable and sustainable level at which fish can be taken by ...recreational fishers.”* The term “equitable” is not found in this section of the strategy.

Recommendation: That the outcome include reference to the equitable distribution of available fish stocks in line with the Tasmanian Liberal Policy “Investing in Improved Facilities for Recreational Fishers and Local Communities” which commits to the equitable and sustainable level at which fish can be taken by recreational fishers through the development of harvest strategies.

Response to performance measures:

The “measurable improvements” for Outcome 1 can be categorised into two types:

1. Improvements in data and knowledge (collection of information and evaluation of the sector on multiple measures); and
2. Improvements in management (responsiveness to and consideration of recreational fishers).

TARFish provides the following response to each category.

1. Improvements in data and knowledge (collection of information and evaluation of the sector on multiple measures)

TARFish welcomes increased knowledge of the recreational fishing sector and collecting appropriate, useful information in a cost-efficient way.

TARFish believes these two performance measures could be combined and recommends the following re-wording:

"Data collection and understanding of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries."

Recommendation: Combine the two performance measures on data and knowledge to:

"Data collection and understanding of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries."

2. Improvements in management (responsiveness to and consideration of recreational fishers)

Whilst TARFish welcomes increased responsiveness to the changing needs of fishers, to only 'recognise' recreational fishing values is insufficient, can be widely interpreted and does not deliver of the intent (or desired intent) of recreational fishers for this Outcome.

It is TARFish's strong view that performance as measured for this outcome must not only "recognise" but specifically protect the value of and access to recreational fishing through inclusion.

TARFish recommends that this performance measure be removed and replaced with specific commitments given to:

- Demonstrated inclusion of recreational fishing values and aspirations in legislation, policy and management; and
- Developed and implemented resource sharing framework and resource sharing arrangements for key species that are broadly supported by recreational fishers.

Recommendation: Replace the performance measures on *"Recognising recreational fishing values in management and resource allocation"* with two new measures:

- Demonstrated inclusion of recreational fishing values and aspirations in legislation, policy and management; and
- Developed and implemented resource sharing framework and agreements for key species that are equitable and broadly supported by recreational fishers implemented.

Therefore, if both recommendations of TARFish are adopted, the performance measures for Outcome 1 would become:

Measurable improvements in:

- **Data collection and understanding of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries.**
- **Demonstrated inclusion of recreational fishing values and aspirations in legislation, policy and management; and**
- **Developed and implemented resource sharing framework and agreements for key species that are broadly supported by recreational fishers implemented.**
- **Management that is responsive to the changing needs of recreational fishers.**

In strengthening the performance measures in this way, recreational fishers are assured that any decisions must not only "recognise" but actively protect access to the activity and to the resource.

Response to principles:

Principle	TARFish comment/recommendation
<p>Recreational fishing values are considered at early development stages when determining catch share arrangements in harvest strategies, management plans and other processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishing values should be considered at all stages (not just at early development stage) including reviews and updates - Catch share arrangements in harvest strategies, management plan and other processes must be equitable.
<p>The promotion of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries to the Tasmanian community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported
<p>All fisheries management processes led by DPIPWE should recognise the importance of recreational fisheries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries management processes led by the Tasmanian Government (not just DPIPWE) - Must or will (not should) recognise the importance
<p>Fisheries resource sharing arrangements between users are clear and explicit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported - Would be strengthened by adding a resource sharing framework.
<p>The different aspirations and management needs of users including non-extractive interests are recognised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This principle is vague and uncertain in its application. - This is a recreational fishing strategy and includes reference to a non-fishing sector – this is one of the only times this occurs in the strategy and causes inconsistency (noting TARFish’s view that the overall strategy lacks a wider context in terms of overall marine and coastal management policy).
<p>Management controls for areas and key species can enhance recreational fishing and community benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggest a re-order so this is more explicit “enhance recreational fishing and community benefits through area management and species specific management controls. - This principle needs to be strengthened to better reflect the commitment in the value’s pre-amble which states that policy will be development on fishing allocation, resource sharing and area management.
<p>Decision making should be transparent, participatory and based on the best available scientific information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported - <u>And</u> Consistent with a resource sharing framework

Response to actions:

TARFish has provided specific comments next to each proposed action. In addition, TARFish offers the following comments and recommendations.

It is TARFish's view that a resource sharing framework is required. Whilst noting that Action 2 goes some way to address this, it is not sufficiently explicit. A transparent, clear and strategic approach to fisheries management would provide a predictable and less political approach to resource sharing that is also adaptive and responsive to changing conditions – economic, social, environmental and cultural.

In forming the following recommendation TARFish considered The Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (2017-2027) and the Northern Territory Resource Sharing Framework (2015).

Recommendation: Commit to and add an action to the strategy to develop a resource sharing framework.

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
Include recreational fishing performance measures, such as fisher satisfaction in fishery harvest plans.	- Must also include equitable access as a performance measure
Develop policy options for intra and inter sectoral resource sharing, with an emphasis on area management (e.g. Recreational Fishing Zones), fishery adjustment and emerging species.	- This is a commitment to develop "policy options" over a 10-year period which appears to lack commitment to implementation or to showing how recreational fishers will be included in those policy options. Specifically, TARFish would like to see the commitment given to development of a resource sharing framework and equitable distribution of available fish stocks in line with the Tasmanian Liberal Policy "Investing in Improved Facilities for Recreational Fishers and Local Communities" which commits to the equitable and sustainable level at which fish can be taken by recreational fishers through the development of harvest strategies expanded to intra and intersectoral resource sharing arrangements, with an emphasis on area management (e.g. Recreational Fishing Zones), fishery adjustment and emerging species.
In partnership with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS), conduct a statewide socioeconomic assessment to understand the importance of recreational fishing.	- This is supported by TARFish and we seek early and active involvement in its scoping and through participation on the project steering committee.
Assess options for greater recognition of recreational fishing as part of the planned review of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995.	- Weakly worded. Should simply read "greater recognition of recreational fishing as part of the planned review of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995."

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
Work with Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (TARFish), IMAS, IFS and national recreational fishing organisations including the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) to monitor national and global developments shaping the future of recreational fishing.	- Supported
Promote the importance of recreational fisheries and educate the public about its benefits through the Department's communication activities and Fishcare, as well as those undertaken by TARFish.	- Supported noting that TARFish would like to see greater commitment and opportunity for non-government organisations that are supported by recreational fishers to undertake education activities. This point is developed further under responses to Outcome 2.

Response to Outcome 2: Involving the community in fisheries management

TARFish welcomes the commitment to improve fisher representation in fisheries management decision making noting that TARFish will shortly be undertaking an organisational renewal project this year with a view to supporting fisher elections to its Board in FY2022-23. In addition, TARFish supports changes to the RecFAC that allows additional participation. Particularly, TARFish would like to see greater use of technology (to increase the opportunity for Tasmanians from regional areas to participate) and changes to meeting times to include evenings and of shorter duration so working people don't have to take annual leave to participate.

TARFish believes that the opportunity for greater involvement of fishers in fisheries decision making and stewardship must be harnessed over the life of the strategy. This would also support greater coordination between sectors and a move toward a genuine co-management approach. Unfortunately, overall, this outcome lacks ambition in its intent and the actions are limited in scope and scale with others confined to "business as usual" which we believe to be a missed opportunity in this strategy. TARFish has developed this view based on clear recreational fisher feedback that they have an increasing interest in fisheries stewardship and managing community owned resources and expressing interest in involvement in fisheries management processes.

Recommendation: Increase the opportunity for fishers to be involved by increasing the ambition and opportunity articulated in Outcome 2 to better reflect the wants of recreational fishers.

Stewardship programs that provide tangible outcomes (such as improvements to fish welfare or habitat for example) are an effective way to directly involve communities in fisheries management. TARFish believes that increased emphasis on stewardship programs through increased capacity and capability in non-government organisations will lead directly to improved outcomes to recreational fishers, fishery abundance and quality of habitats that are well supported by recreational fishers and the wider community. Over-time, stewardship programs have the potential to become an integral and valid management tool if it can be demonstrated, through robust research, that the programs can deliver on the desired outcome, particularly if identified early.

As recommended in the TARFish response to the Discussion document, TARFish believes that a coordinated approach to stewardship programs is needed and restates the recommendation here for inclusion.

Recommendation: The State Government coordinate a working group to review existing stewardship programs and develop a risk rated list of potential programs and funding options with a view to outsourcing, streamlining, and funding stewardship programs.

Response to principles:

TARFish is generally supportive of the principles and makes the following recommendation for inclusion as shown below.

Recommendation: Add a principle, "Improve the capacity and capability of recreational fishers to undertake stewardship programs through non-government organisations."

Response to actions:

TARFish generally supports the proposed actions however, they lack the long-term and significant ambition that this outcome could deliver. TARFish has identified that the organisation intends to increase its service to recreational fishers by leading and delivering stewardship programs.

TARFish recommends that there is an action to support recreational fishing groups in developing the capacity to undertake stewardship programs.

Recommendation: **Support recreational fishing groups in developing the capacity to undertake stewardship programs.**

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
Conduct annual Fishing Forums to discuss regional fisheries issues.	- Supported
Promote public engagement in recreational fisheries management at events including Agfest and fishing and boat shows.	- Supported
Review RecFAC structures and processes to improve advice, transparent reporting and regional representation of fishers.	- Supported
Work with TARFish, local fishing clubs, IMAS and CMS to review and improve the processes by which the community provides fisheries management advice to Government.	- Supported
Work with organisations with scientific or technical capacity (e.g. IMAS, CMS, NRMs, OzFish,CSIRO) to involve recreational fishers in collecting data, restoring habitats and managing pest species.	- Supported
Promote citizen science and stewardship projects via a web page listing endorsed projects and establish a register of people interested in volunteering.	- Supported
Assess the feasibility of fishers nominating part of their existing licence fees for priority projects outlined in the Strategy.	- Supported - Transparency regarding the expenditure and return to recreational fishers from licence fees via published annual information. Please read this together with response to Outcome 6.

Response to Outcome 3: Making it easier for people to go fishing

TARFish strongly supports initiatives that make it easier for people to go fishing and welcomes the positive initiatives within this section. TARFish notes the inclusion of changes to group fishing rules which was a recommendation of TARFish in response to the Discussion Paper.

The principles are simple and well-articulated and TARFish has no further comments on the principles.

The actions are supported by TARFish and the opportunity to be engaged early and ongoing in these initiatives is welcomed.

Response to Outcome 4: Promoting responsible fishing

TARFish notes that this outcome is a combination of compliance and stewardship. TARFish requests that comments and recommendations regarding stewardship from Outcomes 2 and 5 are considered under this outcome also.

With regard to compliance, TARFish notes that there is a general view amongst recreational fishers that there is little visible compliance (police) presence at local fishing areas and boat ramps and that overall, there is support to increase a compliance presence both on and near waterways.

With regard to stewardship, TARFish believes that promoting responsible fishing is not just the responsibility of government and that the sector should be engaged in and effectively 'own' initiatives that they develop and implement. This is a proven successful model and also provides clearer separation between those "managing" the fishery and those "championing" the fishery. This approach is evidenced by the nationally and internationally recognised Tuna Champions program which is an initiative of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) in partnership with IMAS.

The recreational fishing sector is of sufficient maturity and capability that over the life of the strategy, there should be an expressed intention and increased focus on "giving back the work" by enabling fishing groups to actively deliver programs for themselves and allowing the government to focus on management and compliance.

Response to principles:

TARFish is generally supportive of the principles and welcomes the inclusion of our recommendation to tailor messaging to suit diverse audiences.

In particular, TARFish is of the view that the principles "promoting a better understanding of fishing impacts, fishers fish more responsibly" and "resource stewardship ('do the right thing') is preferable to fishing behaviour prompted by compliance deterrents" are critical to future fisheries management in Tasmania.

The only recommended change for the principles is to remove the 'do the right thing' in brackets. This is limiting the principle. Stewardship is not about "right" and "wrong" and should not be the lens through which stewardship is considered.

Recommendation: remove the 'do the right thing' in brackets from the principle "resource stewardship ('do the right thing') is preferable to fishing behaviour prompted by compliance deterrents

Response to actions:

All actions are supported by TARFish but with the caveat that they could be more ambitious for a ten-year strategy.

Recommendation: That more ambitious actions are included in this section

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
Build a new sea fishing website for recreational and commercial fishing, with links to inland fishing (IFS) and recreational boating (MAST).	- Supported
Streamline the printed Recreational Sea Fishing Guide.	- Supported
Continue to upgrade the Tasmanian Sea Fishing Guide App.	- Supported
Work with IMAS to communicate information on the biology and ecology of key species, the science of fisheries management and the impacts of fishing.	- Supported
Produce videos on responsible fishing and fisheries management and science.	- Supported
Engage fishing identities and sponsor champions to communicate key messages.	- Supported
Reinvigorate the Fishcare program to better engage with priority audiences particularly young fishers, CaLD fishers, mobility impaired and female fishers.	- Supported
Engage with tackle shops, charter fishers, marine tourism and other commercial businesses to share key messages with the fishing public.	- Supported
Promote responsible fishing behaviours among CaLD fishers and develop partnerships with organisations that represent or employ CaLD fishers to increase our engagement.	- Supported
Work with TARFish to update the Recreational Marine Fishing Tasmanian Code of Conduct.	- Supported
As part of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 review, assess trends in fisheries offences, including the effectiveness of current enforcement and identify actions to improve where necessary	- Supported
Initiate partnerships and fund pilot projects with IMAS, CMS, FRDC, MESA and leading Australian science communicators to assess options for innovative communication technologies to engage recreational fishers.	- Supported

Response to Outcome 5: ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishing stocks

TARFish supports initiatives that actively support abundant fish stocks and healthy habitats.

TARFish continues to recommend that the aim should be for long-term abundance, not just sustainability of fish stocks.

Recommendation: the aim should be for long-term abundance, not just sustainability of fish stocks.

Response to principles:

TARFish welcomes the principles and believe they strike the right balance across science-guided decision making, a precautionary approach and transparency of decision making.

There is one principle that relates to diversion of fishing effort. It does not sufficiently cover the role that stewardship and behaviour modification as a valid management tool.

Specifically, if applied appropriately and in a timely way, stewardship and behaviour modification can prevent the necessity for other management approaches (such as further bag cuts or season reductions). TARFish believes this should be strengthened in the principles as recommended below and consistent with the principle related to habitat restoration.

Recommendation: Stewardship and behaviour modification programs have a role in sea fisheries management

Response to actions:

Interestingly, whilst there is a principle relating to the role of habitat restoration in fisheries management, there are no corresponding actions.

Recommendation: Inclusion of action(s) that specifically address habitat restoration and pest management.

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
<p>Launch the Flathead for the Future program to rebuild sand flathead populations. Key activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a Flathead Recovery Plan to improve stock monitoring in key fishing areas, review catch limits and set stock rebuilding targets. - Evaluate commercial flathead fishing practices including bycatch and fishing pressure in popular recreational areas. - Assess options to introduce vessel monitoring systems for Danish seine vessels in Tasmanian waters. - Run a responsible flathead fishing campaign including recruiting ambassadors, holding regional forums, via Fishcare exhibits and using DPIPWE 	<p>- Supported</p>

website and communication channels.	
Develop harvest strategies for the abalone, rock lobster and scallop fisheries and some scalefish species (integrated with commercial fisheries) and incorporate recreational fishing goals.	- Supported - This work should be underpinned by the development of a resource sharing framework as recommended
Undertake an audit of the use and impacts of recreational gillnets, beach seine nets and set-lines and consult on a strategy to reduce their impacts.	- Supported
Evaluate the impacts of other recreational gear and methods on target and non-target species and habitats.	- Supported
Review the Recreational Fishing Survey with emphasis on the frequency, scale and complementary technologies such as web cams and app.	- Supported
Develop a new project with IMAS and CMS to better understand implications of climate change for recreational fishing in Tasmania	- Supported
Promote public understanding of fish stock health and recreational fishing impacts through DPIPWE and IMAS communications.	- Supported -
Establish a code of practice for wildlife interactions and a reporting mechanism for threatened and endangered species interactions	- Supported

Response to Outcome 6: improving capacity to support recreational fishing

Response to principles:

TARFish welcomes the commitment to planning and resourcing the activities within the strategy and that partnerships and collaboration will be a feature of service delivery. Similarly, supporting the delivery of activities and stewardship programs by non-government organisations will mark a significant change for the sector in Tasmania.

The principles that relate to contribution to management costs however are not sufficiently clear.

Currently, through licence arrangements, recreational fishers contribute to management costs for a small number of specific fisheries and gear types. These licence fees should only be used to support the management and activity costs of the fisheries/gear for which they are collected. To do other would effectively rely on a small proportion of recreational fishers, paying for the activities and services enjoyed by all fishers through their licence fees. This, by proxy, applies a general licence fee on a small number of species or gear specific fishers.

Recommendation: That monies collected through recreational sea fishing licence fees will be used exclusively for managing the species and gear types to which they are applied.

Response to actions:

The actions contained under this outcome are supported by TARFish with one further recommendation as detailed below:

Recommendation: Review current licence fees and expenditure and ensure that monies collected through recreational sea fishing licence fees will be used exclusively for managing the species and gear types to which they are applied with a view to reducing licence fees if they are used to cross-subsidise other activities.

Action	TARFish comment/recommendation
Consult with recreational sea fishers on options to improve recreational fisheries management in Tasmania as part of the planned review of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995.	- Supported
Investigate efficiencies and collaboration opportunities with the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) to improve coordination of service delivery to inland and marine recreational fishers.	- Supported
Conduct regular meetings with the IFS and MAST to develop educational partnerships. This could include service agreements for closer collaboration on engagement programs (e.g. Fishcare) and public events.	- Supported
Ensure a partnership approach with TARFish and IMAS to target priority actions under this Strategy	- Supported
Establish a collaborative Recreational Fishing Inter-Departmental Committee with IFS, MAST, Tasmania Police, the Parks and Wildlife Service and DPIPWE	- Supported
Identify co-investment opportunities with TARFish, IMAS, Department of State Growth, IFS, MAST, NRMs, Brand Tasmania and other Tasmanian industry partners including Covid-19 recovery opportunities, national habitat restoration citizen science and philanthropic programs.	- Supported
Assess the feasibility of, and requirements for, partnering with sea fishing sponsors and philanthropic organisations.	- Supported
Increase staff capacity for policy and communications to progress Strategy priorities and emerging management issues.	- Supported
Improve compliance reporting services including lost gear	- Supported