

TARFish Bulletin



Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

September 2017



Following on from the success in 2016 of the inaugural national Gone Fishing Day event it has been decided to grow and expand the event in 2017. Gone Fishing Day 2017 is to be held on Sunday the 15th of October and includes plans to highlight the economic, social and environmental benefits recreational fishing provides to the wider community.

It is estimated that Australia's 5 million recreational fishers spend \$10 billion on recreational fishing activities each year. Recreational fishing contributes greatly to communities based on inland rivers and along the coast, many of which are heavily reliant on the economic activity recreational fishing brings.

"We think the popularity and benefits of recreational fishing are great reasons to celebrate this great Australian pastime and we're excited that Sunday the 15th of October will see Australia hold its second National Gone Fishing Day" said Allan Hansard, National Coordinator for Gone Fishing Day.

Along with significant economic benefits to the Nation, recreational fishing provides social, and health related benefits to participants.

Mr Hansard said Gone Fishing Day has been timed perfectly to attract widespread attention from the Australian public, including those who don't fish.

"Gone Fishing Day is after the AFL and the NRL footy finals, after the V8's

in Bathurst and we know from the overwhelming response from all levels of government, fishing clubs, tackle stores and our proud recreational fishing community that this is going to be a real National Celebration."

Events are being held in every state and territory and activities range from fishing clinics and family fishing days through to fishing tournaments and clean ups of our waterways, which means there is something to suit everyone from first time fishers to old salts.

"The best part of Gone Fishing Day is

that how you celebrate it is completely up to you," said Mr. Hansard, "You can join in one of the many events taking place around Australia, you can grab the family or your mates and head out for a day on the water or you can go it alone to your favourite spot and enjoy some time spent outdoors.

TARFish has been working jointly with the state government and Anglers Alliance Tasmania to get events organised in Tasmania. Further information and awesome prize details are available on the web at www.gonefishingday.org



GET INVOLVED IN AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL NATIONAL GONE FISHING DAY!

Grab the kids, your partner, your mates and your fishing rod and help show how important recreational fishing is in Australia.

Go fishing on your own or take part in one of the many events happening around Australia - visit the Gone Fishing Day website to find one near you.

Register your participation for the day, go in the draw to win a share in heaps of prizes and help make Gone Fishing Day 2017 HUGE!!

WWW.GONEFISHINGDAY.ORG



OUT AND ABOUT

Once again TARFish attended the Tasmanian Outdoor Caravan and Boat Show held at the Silverdome in Launceston in early September. Attendance at the show was up on previous years providing us with many opportunities to talk to recreational fishers about the issues that keep them awake at night. Children received free fishing lures, generously donated by Tassie's own Tasmanian Devil Lures, and we distributed hundreds of our own Junior Fisher Log Book over the 3 days of the show.



TARFish also attended the Tasmanian Trout Expo at Cressy in late September to promote Gone Fishing Day and generally support children's recreational fishing activities. A great annual event enjoyed

by many and put on by the Cressy Community who should be justifiably proud of their achievements over the many years that the event has been run.

TARFish attended a workshop in Campbell Town in mid-August titled "Encompassing rec fishers as champions of healthy fish habitat". There were some very informative presentations by Anglers Alliance Tasmania, Inland Fisheries, Landcare, NRM North, Greening Australia & the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. Two on site field trips were part of the workshop to see first-hand what on-ground activities had occurred in Tasmania in recent times.

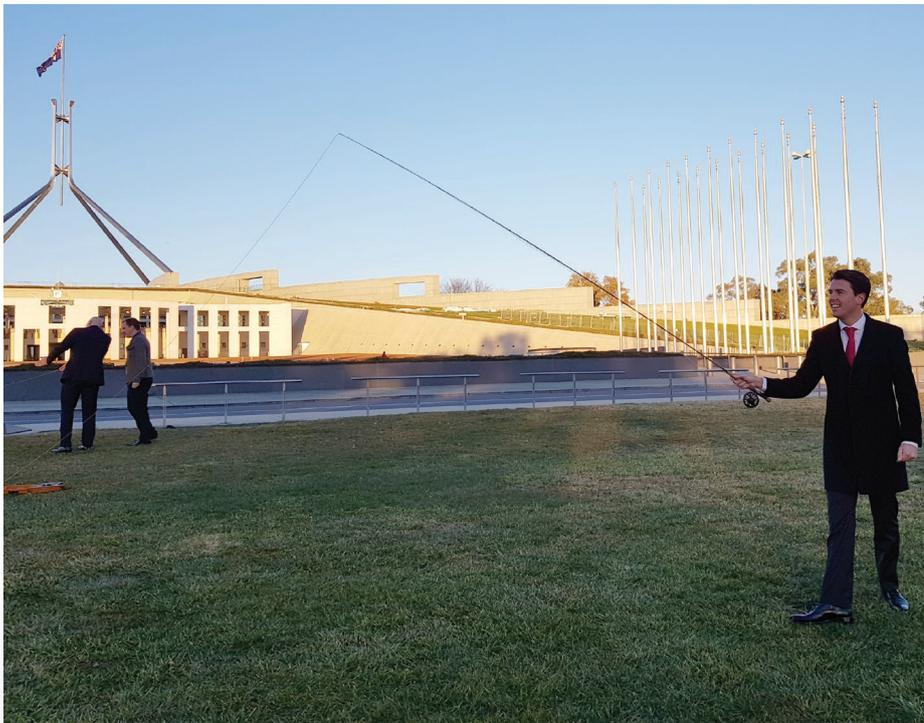
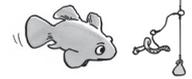
ALGAL BLOOMS

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) shut down fisheries such as Rock Lobster, Abalone, Oysters and Mussels and the impacts have been particularly focused on the East Coast of Tasmania. TARFish attended a workshop recently with researchers "to explore the possibility of developing a HABs forecasting system". Whilst a forecasting system won't solve the problem it may help prepare for upcoming events.

Collating all the information from various independent sources would go a long way to improving the knowledge around algal blooms and it is hoped that the concept of an early warning system can get support from a broad range of stakeholders who have the relevant information.

TARFish receives weekly results of testing that is done in East Coast waters in relation to algal bloom detection. Recent results have shown levels have been very high and at one stage shut down the commercial rock lobster fishery in the mid-East Coast waters for a period of time. Levels can, and do, drop quickly and can be highly variable and understanding what the environmental drivers of the levels are will help support targeted management responses when levels are exceeded.





FRIENDS OF REC FISHERS GROUP

TARFish attended the official launch in Parliament House Canberra in August of the Parliamentary "Friends of Recreational Fishing" group that has been set up within Parliament House.

Tasmanian Senator Jonathon Duniam is Co-Chair of the group and along with Lyons MP Brian Mitchell were eager participants in the impromptu fly fishing class that was held before the annual Recreational Fishing Parliamentary Breakfast that was well attended by all sides of politics.

Long-time efforts to raise the support and understanding of the "values" of recreational fishing are increasing across the political divide and this can only be a good thing for the future of recreational fishing.

Well done to all involved in this exciting initiative to progress recreational fishing understanding in the federal parliament. TARFish looks forward to seeing the recognition of recreational fishing in commonwealth legislation in the not too distant future.

ROCK LOBSTER

Minister Rockliff has handed down his decisions in relation to the recreational rock lobster season for 2017/18.

Eastern Region

Males & Females Open 18 Nov to 30 April

Western Region

Females Open 4 November to 30 April

Males Open 4 Nov to 31 Aug

The Minister has also noted:

- The 2 weekend buffer will continue between the recreational and commercial sector opening dates.
- There will be no reduction in the season length.
- The government's position is that tags will not be implemented in the recreational sector.
- Daily bag, possession, boat limits will not be reduced.
- The government is not considering a season closure as the advice they have received does not warrant such drastic action given the fishery is recovering, albeit slowly.

In making his public announcement

the Minister also noted " that to catch a lobster in the lead up to Christmas is a lifestyle issue for many people and wants to make sure that that recreational activity remains for decades to come."

As part of the process of receiving advice on which to base his decisions on Minister Rockliff asked TARFish to participate in a Working Group with the commercial rock lobster fishers and the Department of Primary Industries.

TARFish was also asked to provide Minister Rockliff with its own advice on a number of options and proposals under discussion and review.



A copy of TARFish's advice to Minister Rockliff is available on our website.

There is still more work to do next year, and in following years, to make sure that the stock rebuilding program that is in place continues and the fishery returns to a long term sustainable fishery able to support all stakeholder needs.





MARINE FARMING

Expansion by the industry continues with Tassal putting in initial infrastructure and fish into their Okehampton Bay site at Triabunna and Port Arthur. Huon Aquaculture have installed additional cages into their Trumpeter Bay site on the western side of Bruny Island. Petuna has announced plans to look at areas in the North West for future potential farming sites and we understand they are progressing with their Storm Bay plans.

Against this backdrop of ongoing development, the State Government has released their Draft Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry. You can download a copy from the DPIPW website.

Public submissions on the Draft Plan close on the 29th September. Make sure you have your say and submit your feedback.



The following reports have been published recently and should the fishing be "off" or the weather is not cooperating then download a copy from our Communications page on our website and sit back and enjoy.

- *Tasmanian Deep Reef Habitats*
- *An evaluation of the options for the expansion of salmonid aquaculture in Tasmanian waters*

JOIN TARFish

TARFish continues to grow and mature as an association and remains committed and flexible to the needs of Tasmania's recreational marine fishing community. Associate membership totals over 3280 individuals and sees members drawn from all areas of Tasmania. Associate membership is FREE and there are no ongoing fees. Simply contact us, and we will post you a membership application or you can download from our website, complete the details and send back.

Find us on 

 @TARFishTas



SOCIAL MEDIA

TARFish has joined social media by setting up on Facebook, Twitter and Skype. Become a "Friend" or "Like" TARFish and be kept up to date with what is happening in the recreational fishing sector as it happens. Just use the search facility in the apps to find TARFish and send us a message or thoughts.

CONTACTING TARFish

Email: info@tarfish.org
Website: www.tarfish.org

Office: 1300 665 225
Mobile: 0403 868 004

GPO Box 2198,
Hobart, Tasmania
7001

Bulletin
September 2017