

# TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

April 2018



## SOUTHERN BLUEFIN

Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) is a focus fishery for 2018 with 3 projects that are currently being developed/underway for the recreational fishing sector.

### Project 1

TARFish attended a SBT education & communications project Steering Group meeting in Melbourne in April. The multi state project will be releasing some exciting details shortly. We will update you with the details when they become available. This project is being conducted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in collaboration with the

national recreational fishing peak body ARFF.

### Project 2

An economic assessment of the recreational fishery for SBT is being conducted by ABARES.

### Project 3

A documentary is being produced on the history of SBT fishing in Australia with a focus on both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

Following completion of the above projects an assessment of the national recreational catch and effort of SBT is expected to commence in late 2018.

## REC FISHING COMMITMENTS

As part of the state election in March the Liberal Party committed to deliver the following in support of recreational marine fishing across the state through their election policy platform.

- Extend the East Coast Rock Lobster Translocation project for a further 4 years.
- Provide \$620,000 funding to TARFish over the next 4 years to support the important work in looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers
- Provide \$700,000 over four years in local government grants to improve access to jetties
- Provide \$685,000 to replace derelict jetties around the very popular Georges Bay area and work with the Break O'Day Council to provide safer access and facilities
- Provide \$250,000 for a community led Masterplan for the Bridport foreshore that will make recommendations in respect of future infrastructure upgrades to support the growing number of recreational fishers, boaters and beach goers. A new Bridport Pier including pontoon access for recreational boaters, boat ramps, associated parking and launching facilities.
- Provide \$2.2 million over three years towards boat parking facilities: Burns Bay, St Helens – expansion and surfacing; Pirates Bay, Eaglehawk Neck – expansion; Coles Bay new parking development including relocated public toilet facilities; and Swansea, on the adjacent foreshore.
- Two artificial reef structures in Tasmanian coastal waters at a cost of \$1 million over four years.
- \$450,000 to purchase and manage the installation of four new Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) to provide a new range of recreational fishing options



- Drive growth in this industry by attracting recreational fishing visitors in both our world class trout fishery and saltwater fishing sectors
- \$175,000 to develop and maintain an online one stop shop to promote and support recreational fishing and boating
- \$350,000 into a vessel replacement fund over four years for all Volunteer Marine Rescue Units to access.
- \$130,000 to the St Helens Volunteer Marine Rescue Unit for base extensions to accommodate the St Helens Game Fishing Club.
- Provide MAST with \$500,000 towards a 30 to 50 metre extension to the rock breakwater at Coles Bay
- Provide MAST with \$100,000 to finalise arrangements for a breakwater to be installed at the Binalong Bay gulch
- Work with MAST to provide floating pontoons and boating facilities following the removal of the derelict Scamander Bridge
- Provide \$250,000 to MAST and the Break O'Day Council to fund onshore and in-water improvements and
- Provide \$200,000 for an extension to the Nubeena Jetty

TARFish will be meeting with the new Primary Industries Minister, Sarah Courtney, shortly to gain an understanding of the program of works and scheduling that will be put in place to deliver the extensive range of project announcements.



## OUT AND ABOUT

Brothers Mason and Cayleb of Risdon Vale were ecstatic with their new members prize from the Hobart Outdoor Show. Parents Craig and Peta said the whole family enjoys camping and fishing and can't wait to try out the new rods and fishing gear. The Hobart Outdoor Show was a new initiative this year and we expect that it will become a regular outdoor show in future years mirroring the success of Launceston's Tas Outdoor, Boat and Caravan Show later in the year. The Primrose Sands RSL Club held a Community Fishing Day in mid-March.

Fishing started at 8am from the Gypsy Bay boat ramp, with about 70 plus families fishing the day. TARFish provided 10 children's fishing rod/reel combo's to support the efforts of the organisers. With such strong community support the organisers are already making plans for a bigger and better event in 2019.

TARFish attended a Recreational Fisheries Forum organised by the DPIPW in Devonport in April. A strong turnout saw 50-60 people hear about updated research findings on King George Whiting, Yellowtail Kingfish and Calamari along with an update on the stock status of Rock Lobster for the North West.



# TARFish

*Looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers*



All 3 species are of particular interest on the North West coast as they are being caught on a more regular basis as knowledge increases on where, when and how to catch them.



TARFish will again be at AGFEST this year from 3 – 5 May. Look for us in Tassie's Agfest Boat Show section on Main Street. We will have free fishing lures for children (hooks removed), fishing information and a new members prize draw.

## AMC PRESENTATION

TARFish delivered our annual presentation "Everything you wanted to know about rec fishing representation...but didn't know who to ask" to the Australian Maritime College's Marine Environment Society. The third-year students come from the disciplines of aquaculture, fisheries and conservation and find it very beneficial to understand the complexity of the various industry stakeholders and the key challenges they face in the future. TARFish has been presenting to the college for the last 5 years and the main feedback we receive is that there is a lot more to rec fishing than they realised.



## MARINE RESEARCH

TARFish attended the quarterly Tasmanian Research Advisory Committee (TasRAC) meeting in April to look at 15 Project Applications & Proposals for marine research projects centered around fishing industry sector priorities for 2018/19. Supported projects have been referred to the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) for funding and once approved we will advise successful projects for the coming year.

## MAST NEWS

Recreational Boating Fund (RBF) applications for 2018/19 closed on 31st March. Applications will now be assessed by MAST and successful projects determined. A high proportion of your recreational boating licence fee provides ongoing funding for marine infrastructure projects across Tasmania.

"The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service together with Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) advise that the Fortescue Bay Boat Ramp will be closed from Monday, 9 April for major upgrading works.

Alternative boat ramps on the Tasman Peninsula are available at Pirates Bay and Garden Point (Port Arthur). Weather permitting, it is anticipated the works will be completed during July.



## MARINE PARKS

The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) is the national organisation representing the interests of Australia's recreational fishing community, including TARFish. ARFF's members and supporters represent the estimated 5 million Australians who fish Australian waters and generate an estimated \$10 billion annually in economic contribution for our local, regional and national economies. This makes Australia's recreational fishers the largest stakeholder user group affected by Marine Parks.

Chairman of ARFF Brett Cleary welcomed the recent announcement by the Turnbull Government of new and improved management plans for Australia's network of Marine Parks following years of consultation, review and public submissions. "These new plans not only recognise recreational fishing as being largely compatible with the conservation objectives of marine parks they also finally recognise recreational fishing as a key value of Marine Parks." Mr Cleary said.

"These new evidence-based management plans strike a good balance between the needs of all stakeholders and they are definitely a vast improvement on the previous plans which locked recreational fishers out of hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of Australian oceans with no scientific justification."

"These new plans ensure fishers will retain access to some of their most beloved and important fishing areas such as the Coral Sea in the Northeast and Geographe Bay in the Southwest of



Australia, locations which have provided generations of Australians with great and sustainable fishing experiences.

The time has arrived for Australia to finally have a National network of marine parks that has something for everyone. These plans provide our marine environment with a high level of protection while satisfying the needs of all reasonable stakeholders. After years of uncertainty it is now time for our marine environment to stop being treated as a political football." Mr Cleary said.

The South East Marine Park, which includes all waters around Tasmania, was the first plan put in place over a decade ago and the above creates a national



network of commonwealth marine parks across Australia.

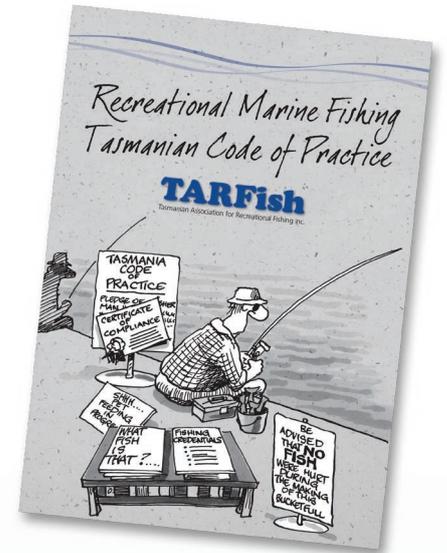
## JOIN TARFish

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.

## CODE OF PRACTICE

The TARFish *Recreational Fishing Code of Practice* has been updated and republished. The TARFish "Code" is based on the national & international codes and has been adapted for our conditions and activities. TARFish worked closely with Parks Australia to ensure there was relevant content around marine parks and reserves included in the updated TARFish Code. Electronic copies are available from our website or hardcopies are available by contacting us.

Codes of Practice are not "rule books", they are voluntary commitments recrea-



tional fishers adhere to in support of general practices that underpin the future of recreational fishing.

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

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