

TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

June 2018

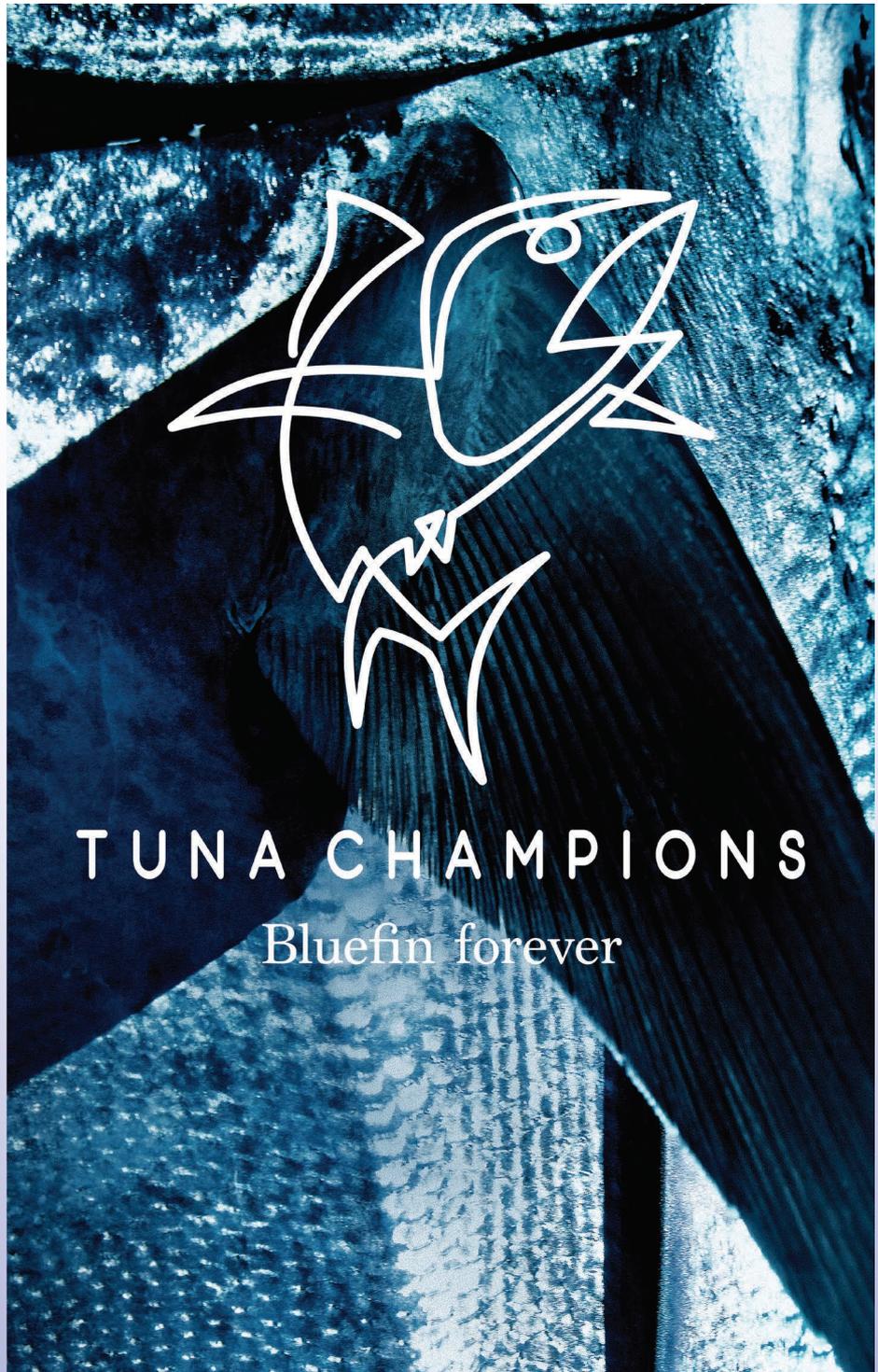
SBT Stewards

IMAS University of Tasmania research into the recreational fishery for Southern Bluefin Tuna is underpinning a new national program to recruit recreational fishers as 'Tuna Champions' to enhance stewardship of this iconic species.

Launched in Hobart in June, the program is led by the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation and IMAS, and funded by the Australian Government through the FRDC.

TARFish sits on the Project Steering Committee and will update when further project details become available.

GONE FISHING DAY
14TH OCT 2018



TUNA CHAMPIONS
Bluefin forever

Put it in your diary now!

Australia will celebrate its third National Gone Fishing Day (GFD) with thousands of Australians going fishing and plenty of events promoting recreational fishing being held across the nation. Recreational fishing is arguably Australia's biggest leisure sporting activity and it doesn't matter if you haven't fished before, or you fish every day – GFD will have something for you. State wide events and further details relevant to Tasmania will be published shortly but make sure you block out your diary now for Sunday October 14th.



TARFish

Looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers



TARFish are calling for applications from members who can add value to the TARFish Committee and want to support recreational marine fishing advocacy in Tasmania.

TARFish are currently seeking applications for an Associate Member Representative. Associate Member Representatives are appointed for two years. TARFish holds meetings every two months in Hobart which last about 2 hours and are conducted out of normal business hours, meetings generally start around 6.30pm. Committee members who must travel to meetings from outside the greater Hobart area are entitled to claim a travel allowance to cover expenses to attend meetings. If you are interested simply contact us and we will send you an information pack.

OUT AND ABOUT

TARFish attended a recent Biosecurity Roundtable meeting held in Hobart by the federal and state governments. Biosecurity systems have come under increasing pressure in recent years and incursions by new and emerging threats have the potential to have long term, devastating impacts.



TARFish participated in AGFEST in May. AGFEST is by far the largest public event in Tasmania with over 65,000 people attending over the 3 days this year. 1 in



5 people recreationally fish in Tasmania therefore there were a lot of recreational fishers at AGFEST. The AGFEST Boat Show organised by MAST was very successful and is scheduled to continue for the next 2 years.

TARFish attended a general meeting of the Tas. Rock Lobster Fisherman's Associ-

ation in Launceston at the end of May to hear first-hand their concerns, options and ideas about the fishery for now and into the future.

Some very interesting ideas and thoughts were debated and discussed as the industry grapples with a changing future environment and market.





PRIZE WINNER

Latest Member Prize Draw winner Andrew Grubert of Launceston was stoked with his new fishing gear package. We stipulated he had to take his partner and young daughter fishing to test out the new gear. Congratulations Andrew, and if you want to join TARFish as a member, forms are available from our website. It's free to join and there are no ongoing fees.

STANLEY

Tasports provided us with a site briefing at Stanley in early June in relation to a temporary closure (at this stage) of public access to a portion of their wharf infrastructure. Tasports have advised "In the interests of public safety, the 'Foreshore Wharf' at Stanley has been closed to the public. This closure follows a safety risk assessment by Tasports. For more information, please contact Tasports North West Regional Manager on 1300366742."

A comprehensive engineering report on the wharf condition has been requested and when we have details we will share. The wharf in question is the one that houses the Wooden Boat Centre on Wharf Road.

HELP WANTED

Another citizen science request from researchers. Please participate, contribute and help build up the knowledge so that when we sit in research priority setting processes we have some facts to consider. Given the salmon aquaculture expansion into more open waters away from estuarine waters all information that becomes available is extremely valuable in understanding the potential impacts on the Tasmanian marine environment of escapees.

"Been fishing for escapee Atlantic Salmon in Tasmania recently? If so, IMAS is interested in hearing from you!

In early May, storm damage to a marine farm located to the east of Bruny Island resulted in the escape of a significant number of Atlantic salmon.

While representing a bonanza for recreational fishers, relatively little is known about the impacts of such escape events. There are several important questions that arise, these include how widely and how quickly do escapees disperse, how

long do they survive in the wild, and are they able to adapt to feeding on natural prey items.

Using this recent escape event as a case study we are inviting recreational fishers to share their experiences in catching escapees. By mapping the area over which the Atlantic salmon have been caught we can better understand patterns of dispersal and, by tracking catch rates through time, we hope to make inferences about survival rates. Finally, any observations about the presence or absence of food items in the stomachs will help us to understand whether the escaped fish feed on natural prey.

If you would like to find out more go to the web at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EscapeeSalmon>

Or, if you'd prefer to receive information by mail, please contact Graeme Ewing (IMAS) on 03 6226 8228 or

Graeme.Ewing@utas.edu.au so we can mail you a copy."



Escapee Salmon?

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PEST DETECTED

“Biosecurity Advisory 17/2018 - Soft-shell clam detected in south east Tasmania.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is investigating the detection of the introduced soft-shell clam on a beach on the Prosser River at Orford in south east Tasmania.

The clam is a large bivalve marine mollusc and genetic sequencing has confirmed it is *Mya japonica*. Soft-shell clams are native to the Northern Hemisphere, and this is the first detection of soft-shell clam in the Southern Hemisphere...

Soft-shell clams can grow up to 150 mm and typically live in sand, mud and gravel in shallow sub-tidal and intertidal zones. The clam exists beneath the sediment surface burying itself up to 50 cm deep. It uses long siphons, which pump water for respiration, feeding and spawning.

Considered an invasive species for their potential to outcompete native species for habitat, *Mya japonica* represents a potential marine pest risk to other areas of Tasmania and Australia through the spread of larvae on water currents.

Biosecurity Tasmania is currently investigating appropriate surveillance methods to understand the extent of the soft-shell clam incursion and possible response options, including if eradication is feasible

or if control methods should be adopted. DPIPWE will pro-actively engage with all biosecurity and scientific groups, the seafood industry, the local councils and communities on this issue to determine the best future strategy.

It is very important that the clams are not collected or moved to other locations.

Anyone finding what they suspect to be a soft-shell clam are encouraged to contact DPIPWE on telephone at 03 6165 3777 or email: invasivespecies@dpiwpe.tas.gov.au. Images of the soft-shell clam can be found on the DPIPWE website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/softshellclam. Supplying a photograph of the suspected soft-shell clam would assist in identification.”

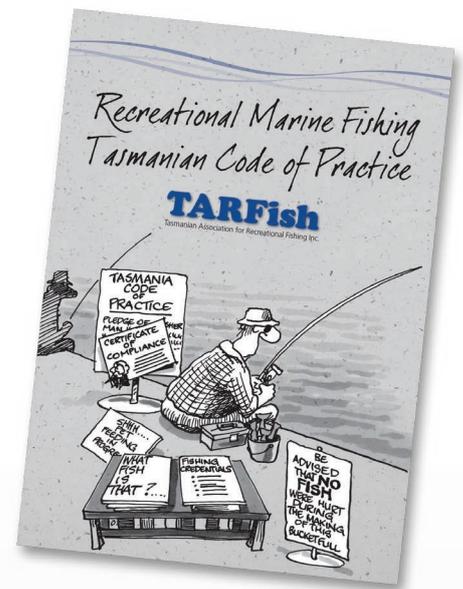
JOIN TARFish

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 nearly 3300 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 recreational fishers adhere to in support of general practices that underpin the future of recreational fishing.



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.

Find us on 



@TARFishTas



CONTACTING TARFish

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

Office: 1300 665 225
Mobile: 0403 868 004

GPO Box 2198,
Hobart, Tasmania
7001

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