



TARFish Bulletin

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

June 2019



environment they also have seen the cumulative and historical effects over time as the marine pests extend further down the East Coast.

The keynote speaker for the event was Richard Harris SC, OAM. Richard was one of the team that rescued the boys' soccer team in what has become known as Thailand's Cave Rescue. Richard was live and in person to describe what happened pre, during and after the dramatic rescue in an amazing first-hand experience.



COMBINED CLUBS

TARFish recently attended the annual Tasmanian Combined Dive Clubs Weekend held in Bicheno. We gave a short presentation on TARFish to a packed audience who experienced near perfect dive conditions over the long weekend in June. A major focus of the event was an update by IMAS on the impact of Centro (Long Spined Sea Urchin) on South and East Coast waters.



CCW Urchins prize

TARFish sponsored a CCW Urchins prize which required participants to capture Longspined Sea Urchin (Centro) photos and video in the Bicheno region over the weekend.

Recreational divers are in a unique position to not only see the devastating effects of Centro to the marine





REC BOATING FUND

TARFish attended Marine and Safety Tasmania's (MAST) Recreational Boating Fund public forums which were held in Devonport, Launceston, St Helens & Hobart during May. Preliminary details on proposed state-wide projects were provided at the forums and will now be considered for approval. Individual project details are available on the MAST website. Successful projects are expected to be announced by the end of June.



RecFAC MEETING

A Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee (RecFAC) meeting was held recently in June which unfortunately due to prior commitments TARFish was not able to attend.

Agenda topics included, Rock Lobster fishery amendment Final Recommendations, East Coast Rock Lobster Management, Rock Lobster Season Dates 2019/20, Research and Planning and Emerging Issues and Matters of Importance.

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Prior to the RecFAC meeting the RecFAC met with the commercial Rock Lobster fishery Crustacean FAC (CFAC) with the objective, according to DPIPWE, to "Encourage greater cross-sectoral understanding of the values of lobster stock and aspirations for stock management."

Given the strong focus on the Rock Lobster fishery of the recent RecFAC meeting and the high social and community value that the rock lobster fishery has to the recreational sector TARFish encourages those who have an interest in understanding the challenges, complexity and potential future changes that may be considered to download a copy of the RecFAC minutes when the DPIPWE posts them online around mid-July.



RecRAG MEETING

TARFish attended the annual Recreational Research Advisory Group (RecRAG) meeting held in June by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

The purpose of the RecRAG is to identify recreational fishing research priorities for the 2020 year.

The top 3 research priority areas for TARFish include:

- Developing a cost-effective monitoring regime and stock assessment for Sand Flathead
- Interactions between the salmon aquaculture industry and Tasmania's key recreational and commercial fisheries: have marine farm operations affected wild fish abundance?
- Climate change: habitat degradation on key species rock lobster and abalone

Research priorities, once agreed between DPIPWE, RecFAC and TARFish, will then be forwarded to potential funding bodies such as the Tasmanian Research Advisory Committee (TasRAC) who are the funding body for the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) for Tasmania.

Research priorities are then forwarded to the research community who develop research project proposals based on the industry sector research priorities. The potential projects are then considered for funding and are expected to commence in 2020.

TARFish will also be attending Abalone, Shellfish & Scalefish RAGs in the coming months.

MAST UPDATE

Marine and Safety Tasmania has advised the Binalong Bay boat ramp will be closed from 24 June until and possibly including October 2019 to allow for construction of a breakwater.

Alternative launching seaward of the St Helens Barway is available at Burns Bay, located at the end of St Helens Point Road. For more information contact Jim

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Caulfield on 6235 8888 or 0419 120 209.

Marine and Safety Tasmania apologises for any inconvenience that may be caused.

MAST has also advised they have commenced a survey of Tasmania's recreational boating community. Full details are on their Facebook page.

AGFEST

TARFish attended AGFEST in early May with feedback received focusing on salmon marine farming impacts and on any upcoming changes for the 2019/20 Rock Lobster fishery for the recreational fishing sector.

Our display focused on the *Tuna Champions* project currently underway around educating recreational fishers on responsible catching, handling, releasing and tagging Southern Bluefin Tuna and the significant marine environment impacts of the marine pest commonly known as the Long Spined Sea Urchin, i.e. *Centro*. This marine pest is having a profound impact on the South and East Coasts.

The Premier, Will Hodgman, even stopped by to get the latest information on recreational fishing and its importance to the Tasmanian community.



FISHING CONFERENCE

The 2019 ARFF National Recreational Fishing Conference is being held on the 10/11th December at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

TARFish are hosting the conference on behalf of the national peak body, the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF). The conference is held every two years and was last held in Darwin in 2017.

The national conference is being held in Tasmania in alignment to the World Fly Fishing Championships which conclude

on the 8th December 2019 in Tasmania.

If you are a recreational fisher then Tasmania is the place to be in December. Save the date in your calendar for the conference, further details will be released shortly.

Australia's National Recreational Fishing Conference 2019 is supported by funding from the FRDC on behalf of the Australian Government.



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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.

A recent report from IMAS "Fisher survey of muscle melanisation in Sand Flathead" investigates what is currently known about those black spots you sometimes see in flathead fillets. What are they? Does it harm the fish? Can you safely eat them? Why do they occur? are common questions we receive from recreational fishers who come across this phenomenon.

TARFish COMMITTEE

Following a call for interest from members to fill an Associate Committee Member Representative role TARFish is pleased to advise Brian Hinson from Brighton has joined the TARFish Committee for the next two years.

Brian is a semi-retired Tasmanian whisky distiller, who previously worked as a textile manufacturing technologist/manager, then as an olive grower/oil processing consultant.

He has had 10 years of experience recreational catch and release freshwater angling in England and Ireland, then 50 years of recreational fishing in Tasmania. Here he has fished for trout with fly and lure. His favourite spots for trout include the Lune River, Lakes Echo, Crescent, Little Pine, Arthurs and Dee. He's caught many Tasmanian saltwater fish species with rod and line, spear (flounder and snorkelling), grab-all and beach seine nets, plus rock lobster rings and pots. His location preferences include the outside of Maria and Bruny Islands, the Tasman Peninsular, and the coastline near Southport. In season, trolling for tuna becomes his main passion.

Brian is interested in marine conservation and believes that we should consider setting up more marine reserves, before further reducing recreational fisher's bag limits and/or removing their right to



use gill-nets. Also, he wants to help to encourage more school age children to get out-of-doors and take up rod and line fishing. He believes that regular junior fishing competitions around the State, can assist in this outcome.



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 need to 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.

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 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.

CONTACTING TARFish

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