

SPECIAL BULLETIN: COVID-19 UPDATE 7 APRIL 2020

A WORD FROM THE TARFISH CEO

I never expected the first TARFish Bulletin I prepared would be on a global pandemic and its impact on recreational fishing here in Tasmania. In the six weeks since I joined TARFish, the world has changed.

In this time of uncertainty and anxiety it is important for us all to be able to keep up our mental health as well as our physical by retaining our ability to go for a fish as we adjust to the many changes to our daily lives as a result of Covid-19.

As we approach Easter, typically a busy time for recreational fishers, I wanted you to have the most up-to-date information available so that if you do choose to go fishing, you can do it safely and responsibly.

Each of us is responsible for our own actions and as we have found out, decisions are being made fast by the Government. So, if we want to keep fishing, do it right, do it safely, or risk not doing it at all. It's a tough message but an important one.

Take it seriously and encourage your family and friends to do likewise.

Through regular discussion with the Government about their decisions and what they mean in both the short and long term we will keep working hard to get recreational fishers a fair deal on everything from changes to fishing seasons to the cost of fishing licenses and everything in between.

If you have questions after reading this bulletin, please email or contact us via our Facebook page and if you want to stay up to date and make sure your voice is heard when it comes to recreational fishing matters, become a member! It's free and you can [sign up here](#) in less than 3 minutes.

Our regular News Bulletin will be out soon with updates on the Government's Recreational Fishing Strategy, IMAS's Recreational Fishing Survey, the evolving situation with Southern Bluefin Tuna and more.

Thank you *Jane Gallichan*

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SOURCED FROM THE [TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND MARINE AND SAFETY TASMANIA](#) ON 6 APRIL. PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITES FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES IF YOU ARE UNSURE.

THE BASICS

Before we get started, please remember that our emergency services are stretched right now so if you choose to go fishing, especially in a boat, please be super safe.

WHO CAN I GO FISHING WITH?

In line with the advice on outdoor exercise, you should go fishing by yourself or with one other person. That means no more than two people out fishing together – except if they are from the same residence as of 30th of March.

If fishing with someone not from your household, you must maintain social distancing - at least 1.5m apart at all times.

Do not share fishing gear and sanitise your equipment after use.

WHERE CAN I GO FISHING?

If you must fish, only fish locally – stay in your community. A good rule of thumb is if you couldn't walk or ride a bike there, then don't go. The specific boating advice is to stay in your own municipality for launching boats.



BOAT FISHING

WHERE CAN I LAUNCH MY BOAT?

From Wednesday 8 April and effective until Monday 27 April, people will be restricted to launching their boat within their local municipality in which their primary residence is located. You must return to your primary residence in that day.

WHAT PROCEDURES SHOULD I PUT IN PLACE WHEN LAUNCHING MY BOAT?

Ensure you wait your turn at the ramp and MAST recommends that if it is a double lane facility, that only one lane is used to maintain the required social distance. Same procedure to apply when retrieving your boat. Maintain personal hygiene at all times.

AM I ALLOWED TO BUY FUEL, BAIT AND OTHER ESSENTIALS?

You can purchase fuel and other essentials to facilitate your boating.

CAN I STILL TAKE MY BOAT OUT IF IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR 'SOCIAL DISTANCING'?

In line with the advice on outdoor exercise, you should have no more than two people in a boat unless they are from the same household.

If boating with one person that you do not reside with, ensure you maintain social distancing (at least 1.5 metres apart).

If your boat is not big enough to allow for 1.5m distance between occupants, you must not take your vessel out.

WHAT EXTRA PRECAUTIONS DO I NEED TO TAKE?

Use hand sanitiser where there is any contact with shared surfaces. Sanitise equipment and leave outside the home where possible.

SHORE FISHING (INCL. JETTIES AND PONTOONS)

CAN I STILL GO FISHING ON JETTIES AND PONTOONS?

If you are planning shore-based fishing in your local area, and if other fishers are already on the fishing platform/jetty, maintain social distancing requirements or move to other areas. Use hand sanitiser where there is any contact with shared surfaces.

TARFISH RECOMMENDS THAT YOU FISH LOCALLY

WHAT CAN'T I DO?

1. GO TO A SHACK OR CAMP/CARAVAN
2. DON'T MEET IN GROUPS AT A BOAT RAMP OR JETTY OR OTHER FISHING SPOT
4. DON'T GATHER ON THE WATER IN VESSELS
5. IF YOU CAN'T ACCOMMODATE A 1.5M SEPARATION, DON'T FISH

SPECIFIC SEASON INFORMATION UPDATE – CURRENT AT 6 APRIL



DPIPWE advises fisheries rules can be changed quickly should this be recommended by Public Health as part of the overall Covid-19 response

SPECIES	STATUS	FAQ'S
SCALLOPS	<p>The recreational scallop season in Tasmania will remain CLOSED as part of broader measures to protect Tasmanians during the current COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>The season was originally scheduled to open on Saturday 4 April 2020.</p>	<p><u>WILL THE SEASON OPEN LATER IN THE YEAR?</u></p> <p>TARFish have been strongly advocating that the Government consider a later opening once it is safe to do so. The Government will consider this and will work with us on season options should the COVID-19 situation settle down a bit.</p> <p><u>WILL I GET A REFUND ON MY SCALLOP LICENCE THIS YEAR IF THE SEASON DOESN'T OPEN AT ALL?</u></p> <p>DPIPWE is working through the implications of this for recreational licence holders and will provide further information once more is known.</p> <p>TARFish's first preference is to have a later season in 2020</p>
ROCK LOBSTER	<p>The recreational rock lobster season remains OPEN.</p> <p>Season closures are approaching: <u>Eastern Region (including ECSRZ)</u> - Closes 30 April 2020. <u>Western Region (Females)</u> - Closes 30 April 2020. Western Region (Males) - Closes 31 August 2020.</p>	<p><u>WILL THE SEASON BE CLOSED EARLY?</u></p> <p>There is no current intention to close the rock lobster season early.</p>
BANDED MORWONG	<p>The opening of the Banded Morwong season is approaching: DUE TO OPEN ON 1 May</p>	<p><u>WILL THE SEASON OPEN?</u></p> <p>The current intention is to open the Banded Morwong season on 1 May.</p>

THANK YOU

CONTACTING TARFish

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