



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

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RECREATIONAL ROCK LOBSTER CHALLENGES

Minister Rockliff's announcement yesterday that additional measures are being proposed to further limit recreational rock lobster fishing on the East Coast are expected to raise significant public angst.

TARFish have been continuing to work constructively with the government and the commercial rock lobster fishing industry in developing management measures that as Minister Rockliff has noted "leaves fish in the water" as part of the East Coast Rock Lobster Rebuilding Strategy.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai said "recreational rock lobster fishers agree with Minister Rockliff's strategy to "leave fish in the water" and wholeheartedly support his desire to ensure the rock lobster fishery is maintained at sustainable levels for all stakeholders."

To that end TARFish has recently provided its strategic options to Minister Rockliff in support of constraining total catch levels within the determined catch caps for the East Coast. Some of these options are radical and innovative however TARFish believe there are no easy answers to the complexity of issues that required a catch cap to be implemented.

These options require a degree of investigative work to determine their feasibility and effectiveness and TARFish are pleased Minister Rockliff has agreed to continue to work collaboratively with TARFish and the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fisherman's Association on long term solutions to the challenges the fishery faces on the East Coast.

TARFish CEO said "Tough decisions need to be made and we want to make sure any actions that are proposed provide a measurable positive contribution to the East Coast catch cap that is in place."

Contact Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer on 0403 868 004 for further information.

TARFish is the independent, government recognised peak body looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.