

DRAFT TASMANIAN RECREATIONAL  
**SEA FISHING STRATEGY**  
2021 - 2030



CONSULTATION DRAFT



*June 2021*

TASMANIAN  
**RECREATIONAL**  
**SEA FISHING**  
STRATEGY



**Author:**

Wild Fisheries Management Branch

**Coordination:**

Strategy Steering Committee:

Ian Dutton, Director of Marine Resources

Max Kitchell, RecFAC Chair

Jane Gallichan, TARFish CEO

Jeremy Lyle, Senior Recreational Fisheries Researcher, IMAS

Andrew Hart, Recreational Fisher

Emilie Donovan, Recreational Fisher

**Strategy Working Group:**

Ian Dutton, Director of Marine Resources

Sven Frijlink, Recreational Fisheries Policy Officer

Grant Pullen, Manager, Wild Fisheries Management Branch

Rod Pearn, Principal Fisheries Management Officer (Recreational Fisheries)

Sally Williams, Senior Fisheries Communications Officer

Travis Preece, Fisheries Awareness Officer (Northern Tasmania)

Fang Zhao, Fisheries Awareness Facilitator

**Publisher:**

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

**Date:**

24 June 2021

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# CONTENTS

MINISTER'S FOREWORD .....	5
SUMMARY .....	6
HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION .....	7
KEY STEPS IN THE STRATEGY .....	8
INTRODUCTION AND VISION .....	9
OUTCOMES - DELIVERING THE VISION .....	9
Outcome 1: Valuing recreational sea fishing .....	10
Outcome 2: Involving the community in fisheries management .....	12
Outcome 3: Making it easier for people to go fishing .....	14
Outcome 4: Promoting responsible recreational fishing .....	16
Outcome 5: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and habitats .....	18
Outcome 6: Improving capacity to support recreational fishing .....	20
PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVIEW .....	22
APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION TABLE .....	23
ACRONYMS .....	26

# MINISTER'S FOREWORD

As the Minister responsible for Fisheries and a keen fisher, I am delighted to release the *Draft Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy*.

The Strategy is a forward-thinking approach to our recreational sea fishing future. To get to this point, we consulted closely with recreational fishers, stakeholder groups and the community. Public feedback included responses to the *For a Better Fishing Future Survey* and a discussion paper released in September 2020.

Recreational fishing is an important way of life in our island state. Over 100,000 Tasmanians go fishing each year including catching a feed of flathead, trolling for tuna or setting a rock lobster pot. As well as the lifestyle benefits recreational fishing provides, the economic benefits are considerable, especially in regional areas.

The Strategy focuses on fishers looking after fish stocks and being more involved in determining the future of recreational fishing. As pressures on fish stocks and the marine environment increase, it has never been more important to fish responsibly and instill a positive fishing ethic in our younger generation.

Making it easier for people to go fishing is another important initiative of the Strategy. To help people access our world-class fisheries, I am committed to encouraging more Tasmanians to fish, especially young people and women, and to supporting those who may not have the skills or mobility to fish.

Recent demonstrations of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to recreational fishers include funding for programs to install and upgrade fishing infrastructure, address flathead depletions, and make fishing easier for women, youth and people of all abilities. We have also committed funds to modernise the fisheries website and support the peak body, TARFish for a further four years.

While these commitments are an important starting point for a new era in managing recreational fisheries, there are others with a strong stake in how our fisheries are managed. These include those who make a living from fishing, Aboriginal people with an enduring connection to Sea Country, and the broader community who wants to know our marine environment is being managed responsibly. These different interests present opportunities and challenges in delivering a long-term fisheries management agenda.

I invite you to have your say on the Draft Strategy and play your part in successfully planning our next 10 years of recreational sea fishing. Your views will be considered before the final Strategy is released in September 2021.



Guy Barnett  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

# SUMMARY

The Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of recreational sea fishing and the benefits it delivers to Tasmanians. Providing rewarding fishing experiences to a diverse population of fishers while maintaining healthy fish stocks in a changing marine environment is a continuing challenge.

In January 2020, DPIPW E began developing the *Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy* ('the Strategy'), to deliver a comprehensive approach to managing recreational sea fisheries for the next 10 years.

Formulating the Strategy has seen extensive consultation during the past year. Overwhelmingly, feedback from the community supports a great level of fisher engagement in managing our recreational fisheries.

The Vision Statement guiding the Strategy is:

***The diverse recreational fishing aspirations of Tasmanians are met by promoting shared responsibility for stewardship and making sure our fish stocks are managed sustainably.***

This vision will be achieved by focusing on six Outcomes:

1. Valuing recreational sea fishing;
2. Involving the community in fisheries management;
3. Making it easier for people to go fishing;
4. Promoting responsible recreational fishing;
5. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and habitats, and;
6. Improving capacity to support recreational fishing.

Under the six Outcomes, 52 actions are identified. Proposed priority initiatives include:

- *A Flathead for the Future* program to improve fishing for flathead;
- Developing harvest strategies for abalone, rock lobster, scallop and key recreational scalefish species to safeguard fish stocks and incorporate recreational fishing goals;
- Developing policy on resource sharing including considering recreational fishing zones;
- Reviewing appropriate recreational fishing methods and gear;
- Assessing the feasibility of a recreational fishing infrastructure fund;
- Making fishing easier for youth, women and people of all abilities; and
- Modernising the sea fishing website.

To achieve these actions, the Tasmanian government will seek working partnerships with other organisations, including non-government and community organisations.

The Strategy will be implemented from September 2021. Progress will be reported on annually and a review will be undertaken in 2025 to assess its performance and identify new priorities so the proposed outcomes are realised.

# HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

DPIPWE is seeking your views on the *Draft Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy*.

Please comment on any of the Outcomes and Actions proposed or any other aspect of the Strategy.

Your feedback is important and will be considered in finalising the Strategy.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

### **In person**

Consultative meetings to seek input and discuss the Strategy will be held around Tasmania. We encourage recreational fishers and the general community to attend one of these face-to-face sessions.

The meeting schedule is available at: [www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy)

### **Online, email and post**

**Online:** The online response form is available at: [www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy)

**Email:** Submissions can be emailed to: [recfishingstrategy@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:recfishingstrategy@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

**Post:** Recreational Fishing Section, DPIPWE, GPO Box 44 Hobart, TAS 7001

## **RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT MONDAY 26 JULY 2021.**

### **Information about submissions**

All submissions will be treated as public information and made available on the Department's website. If you wish for your submission to be treated as confidential, either whole or in part, please note this in writing at the time of making your submission.

No personal information other than the name of individual submitters will be disclosed.

### **The Right to Information Act 2009 and confidentiality**

By law, information provided to the Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI). If you have indicated that you wish all or part of your submission to be confidential, the statement that details your reasons will be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure.

# KEY STEPS IN THE STRATEGY

The draft Strategy has been developed in close consultation with the community. Feedback was captured during three main stages.

## Initial scoping of issues

In early 2020, around 150 stakeholders, mainly recreational fishers, were interviewed about recreational sea fishing issues. Commercial fishers, tourism representatives, local government, Tasmania Marine Police, and the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) also provided feedback.

## For a Better Fishing Future survey

A survey captured wider community views on issues raised and input from the scoping process. Over 3200 respondents indicated their level of agreement with 32 potential initiatives as well as giving open-ended feedback.

## Discussion Paper

A Discussion Paper:

- proposed 17 initiatives across six Outcomes;
- asked for suggestions on Actions; and
- sought feedback on a proposed Vision statement.

Seventy submissions were received.

Face to face feedback:

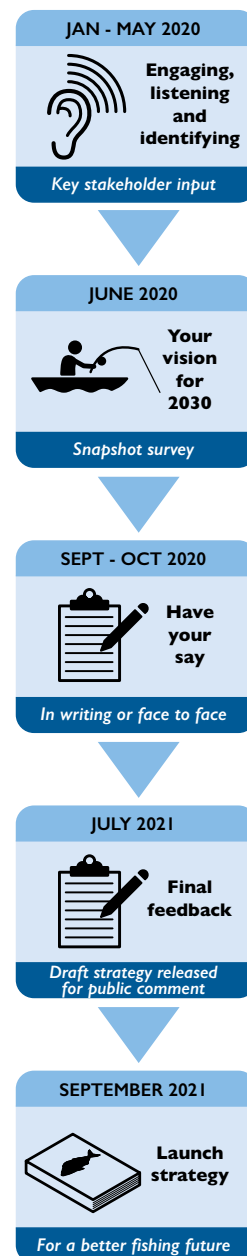
- 40 consultative meetings were held around the State.
- Tackle shops staff were interviewed in all regions.

## Next Steps

This draft Strategy is now open for public comment. Consultative meetings will be held Statewide.

The final Strategy will be released from September 2021.

More information on Strategy consultation is available at [www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy).





# INTRODUCTION

Recreational sea fishing plays a prominent role in Tasmania's lifestyle and economy.

We have some of the highest rates of fishing participation in the world with more than 100,000 Tasmanians going recreational fishing each year, 75% in marine waters. Some 30,000 interstate and overseas visitors also fish here each year.

We fish our coastal waters from the seaward limits of rivers out to 200 nautical miles offshore. Annual catches by recreational fishers include around 700,000 flathead, 68,000 rock lobster and 42,000 abalone.

Spending by recreational sea fishers makes a significant contribution to Tasmania's economy with more than \$160 million a year spent on accommodation, fuel, bait, tackle and other equipment. This is particularly important to regional communities.

The greatest benefits associated with recreational activities are socio-economic, cultural and psychological. Catching fish for food is important but other motivations like enjoying the outdoors and spending time with friends and family are central to a rewarding fishing experience.

Developing this Strategy was inspired by the need to maintain the long-term benefits of recreational sea fishing for Tasmanians. The right blend of proactive management and fisher stewardship will maximise recreational fishing opportunities while making sure our fisheries will be enjoyed by future generations.

## RECREATIONAL SEA FISHING: 10 YEAR VISION

The diverse recreational fishing aspirations of Tasmanians are met by promoting shared responsibility for stewardship and making sure our fish stocks are managed sustainably.

# OUTCOMES - DELIVERING THE VISION



## **Outcome 1: Valuing recreational sea fishing**

### **By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:**

- Recognising recreational fishing values in management and resource allocation;
- Understanding of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries to the Tasmanian community;
- Management that is responsive to the changing needs of fishers; and
- Collecting information about the needs and activities of recreational sea fishers.

We are committed to better meeting the needs of fishers.

To do this we need to improve our understanding of not only their fishing activities but also the cultural, social and economic values associated with recreational fishing. This knowledge is important for managing stocks sustainably and equitably, including sharing fish stocks with commercial fishers, non-fishers and Aboriginal people.

We will strengthen research to better understand the recreational sector and the interests of non-fishers. This leads to more informed management and better representation in fisheries decision-making processes.

Resource sharing was frequently raised during consultation. Many fishers proposed separating recreational and commercial fishing areas and using season controls to address resource sharing and avoid conflict with other users.

Recreational Fishing Zones with differing levels of restrictions already exist in Tasmania in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Georges Bay and Ansons Bay. As well as area management, policy on fishing allocation and resource sharing will be developed.

We acknowledge the importance of the East Coast rock lobster fishery to the recreational sector and regional communities and it will be a key factor in determining future management arrangements. Resource allocation will be undertaken within existing fishery management processes.

## Principles

- Recreational fishing values are considered at early development stages when determining catch share arrangements in harvest strategies, management plans and other processes.
- The promotion of the economic, social and cultural values of recreational fisheries to the Tasmanian community.
- All fisheries management processes led by DPIPWE should recognise the importance of recreational fisheries.
- Fisheries resource sharing arrangements between users are clear and explicit
- The different aspirations and management needs of users including non-extractive interests are recognised.
- Management controls for areas and key species can enhance recreational fishing and community benefits.
- Decision making should be transparent, participatory and based on the best available scientific information.

## Actions

1. Include recreational fishing performance measures, such as fisher satisfaction in fishery harvest plans.
2. Develop policy options for intra and inter sectoral resource sharing, with an emphasis on area management (e.g. Recreational Fishing Zones), fishery adjustment and emerging species.
3. In partnership with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS), conduct a statewide socioeconomic assessment to understand the importance of recreational fishing.
4. Assess options for greater recognition of recreational fishing as part of the planned review of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*.
5. Work with Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (TARFish), IMAS, IFS and national recreational fishing organisations including the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) to monitor national and global developments shaping the future of recreational fishing.
6. Promote the importance of recreational fisheries and educate the public about its benefits through the Department's communication activities and Fishcare, as well as those undertaken by TARFish.



## Outcome 2: Involving the community in fisheries management

### By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:

- The representation of recreational fishers in decision-making processes;
- Participation by recreational fishers in citizen science programs;
- Opportunities for active resource stewardship involving recreational fishers; and
- Collaboration between fishers, TARFish, community organisations, fishing businesses and the government in facilitating co-management and stewardship.

We receive input from fishers and the broader community in a range of ways. These include independent advice from the representative peak body TARFish and other recreational fishing groups, and strategic advice from the Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee (RecFAC), which is mostly comprised of recreational fishers. Fisheries managers engage with the public at fishing forums and events such as Agfest.

Fishers are increasingly showing interest in fisheries stewardship and managing community owned resources. More than ever they are attending forums, accessing fishing information online and asking to be part of the management process.

During consultation, the community told us they want to be more involved in fisheries decision making. This includes participating in research and management at an earlier stage. They also expressed a need for greater clarity around the roles and service delivery of DPIPWE, TARFish and RecFAC.

We have also received requests for greater community input in identifying research priorities, planning for infrastructure, participating in stewardship programs – such as Ozfish style community clean-ups – and citizen science programs. These include the Research Angler Program, Tuna Champions program and Redmap. The IMAS phone-diary surveys that gather recreational catch data are also based on voluntary fisher participation.

## Principles

- Recreational fishers are proactively engaged and represented in fisheries decision making.
- Fishers are encouraged to promote fisheries stewardship practices.
- Recreational fishers are encouraged to provide observations, samples and data for fisheries research programs.
- Information collected through citizen science and stewardship programs is communicated back to recreational fishers.

## Actions

1. Conduct annual Fishing Forums to discuss regional fisheries issues.
2. Promote public engagement in recreational fisheries management at events including Agfest and fishing and boat shows.
3. Review RecFAC structures and processes to improve advice, transparent reporting and regional representation of fishers.
4. Work with TARFish, local fishing clubs, IMAS and CMS to review and improve the processes by which the community provides fisheries management advice to Government.
5. Work with organisations with scientific or technical capacity (e.g. IMAS, CMS, NRMs, OzFish, CSIRO) to involve recreational fishers in collecting data, restoring habitats and managing pest species.
6. Promote citizen science and stewardship projects via a web page listing endorsed projects and establish a register of people interested in volunteering.
7. Assess the feasibility of fishers nominating part of their existing licence fees for priority projects outlined in the Strategy.



## **Outcome 3: Making it easier for people to go fishing**

### **By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:**

- Accessibility of recreational fishing opportunities through education and enabling activities;
- Facilities and infrastructure, particularly for shore-based fishers; and
- Fisher satisfaction.

There is strong community support to provide better access to shore-based fishing and reduce participation barriers for families, women and girls, the mobility impaired, and people living with disability.

The DPIPWE Fishcare program currently runs responsible fishing clinics for groups including children, female fishers and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) fishers and there is scope to expand this.

Going fishing can be constrained by a lack of public infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, pontoons and fishing platforms. In Tasmania, most of these are provided by Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) in association with councils, generally to support boating.

Feedback noted improvements to infrastructure in recent years but also identified the need for better shore-based fishing access. Installing more toilets, rubbish bins, tables and fish cleaning facilities was also raised. Gaining permission to access private property has also been identified as a way to improve access to shore-based fishing areas.

Artificial reefs create fishing opportunities where little natural reef exists while fishing aggregation devices (FADs) attract pelagic fish such as tunas and yellowtail kingfish. A government project is currently deploying two artificial reefs and several FADs in Tasmania. If they are successful in enhancing recreational fishing without adding more pressure on our fisheries, there is potential for more deployments.

There is growing interest in restoring lost and degraded habitats such as native oyster reefs. The Australia-wide Reefbuilder program recently announced an initial proposal for a reef in southern Tasmania. Opportunities for these types of projects will be created where possible.

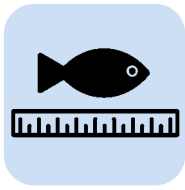
Recreational fisher access can also be improved by allowing catch sharing on the water between fishers such as lobster potters and scallop divers.

## Principles

- Barriers to fishing participation are identified and actively addressed.
- Fishing infrastructure will include access for families, and people living with disability or who have limited mobility.
- A user-centric approach to the design of fishing infrastructure.

## Actions

1. Convene a workshop with key stakeholders including TARFish, IMAS, CMS and to identify participation barriers and fishing access needs.
2. Draft a 'No Barriers' policy to enable recreational fishing activities.
3. Establish a women's fishing network to share information for female fishers and those interested in starting fishing.
4. Assess the feasibility of a 'buddy-style' fishing program to support people living with disability or who have limited mobility.
5. Complete a statewide audit of recreational fishing infrastructure including facilities that could be modified to enable fishing access.
6. Guided by Action 5, establish a Recreational Sea Fishing Infrastructure Fund.
7. Conduct a study on artificial reefs and FADs to better understand their impacts on key species and their value to Tasmanian recreational fishers
8. Work with MAST and TARFish to develop a code of practice for recreational fishing around FADs and artificial reefs and a policy on commercial fishing around these.
9. Review rock lobster fishing rules to assess whether licensed recreational rock lobster pot fishers can share their catch on the same boat.
10. Review scallop fishing rules to assess whether licensed recreational scallop divers can share their catch on the same boat.



## Outcome 4: Promoting responsible recreational fishing

### By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:

- Public understanding of fishing rules;
- Fewer reports of fishers who don't fish responsibly;
- Compliance with fishing rules; and
- The use of technologies that support responsible recreational fishing.

Rules and responsible fishing information needs to be easy to follow and aligned with social norms.

To maximise our reach to fishers, we will continue to update the way we provide information including the printed guide, phone app, social media, website and fishing signs at popular fishing spots.

The Fishcare program promotes responsible fishing through fishing clinics, community patrols, public events and a schools program. Based on community feedback, we will expand the program to better engage young fishers and CaLD fishers.

Consultation also identified an unmet demand for information on fisheries management and science including catches by sector, stock status, the biology of important species and the impacts of recreational and commercial fishing. Given the link between fishers understanding of their own impact and developing a responsible fishing ethic, this is an important priority.

We also need to take advantage of emerging technologies and information sharing platforms such as augmented reality for place-based learning and artificial intelligence for catch and effort recording.

Charter and tourism operators, fishing clubs, associations and other organisations also have a role in promoting responsible fishing. The Recreational Marine Fishing Tasmanian Code of Conduct developed by TARFish, and the Tuna Champions Program are examples of what can be achieved through partnership with fishing associations.

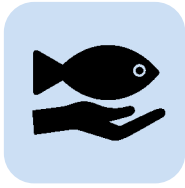


## Principles

- Responsible fishing messages are tailored to suit diverse audiences.
- Fishing rules are clear, easily understood and consistently communicated.
- Fishers can easily access information required to fish lawfully and responsibly.
- By promoting a better understanding of fishing impacts, fishers fish more responsibly.
- Resource stewardship ('do the right thing') is preferable to fishing behaviour prompted by compliance deterrents.

## Actions

1. Build a new sea fishing website for recreational and commercial fishing, with links to inland fishing (IFS) and recreational boating (MAST).
2. Streamline the printed *Recreational Sea Fishing Guide*.
3. Continue to upgrade the *Tasmanian Sea Fishing Guide App*.
4. Work with IMAS to communicate information on the biology and ecology of key species, the science of fisheries management and the impacts of fishing.
5. Produce videos on responsible fishing and fisheries management and science.
6. Engage fishing identities and sponsor champions to communicate key messages.
7. Reinvigorate the Fishcare program to better engage with priority audiences particularly young fishers, CaLD fishers, mobility impaired and female fishers.
8. Engage with tackle shops, charter fishers, marine tourism and other commercial businesses to share key messages with the fishing public.
9. Promote responsible fishing behaviours among CaLD fishers and develop partnerships with organisations that represent or employ CaLD fishers to increase our engagement.
10. Work with TARFish to update the Recreational Marine Fishing Tasmanian Code of Conduct.
11. As part of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* review, assess trends in fisheries offences, including the effectiveness of current enforcement and identify actions to improve where necessary.
12. Initiate partnerships and fund pilot projects with IMAS, CMS, FRDC, MESA and leading Australian science communicators to assess options for innovative communication technologies to engage recreational fishers.



## **Outcome 5: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and habitats**

### **By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:**

- Fewer reports of unsustainable fishing activities.
- The quality of data used to manage recreational fisheries, particularly at a regional and species level.
- The confidence of fishers in self-reported research and monitoring information.
- Opportunities for fishers to contribute to data collection.
- The use of recreational fishing gear and methods that minimise damage to target and non-target species and habitats.
- Collaborations with partner organisations to promote habitat rehabilitation and fund activities that support healthy fisheries.

Ensuring long-term sustainability is the overarching objective in managing our commercial and recreational fisheries.

To achieve this, we need to assess stock abundance, establish harvest strategies with performance measures, monitor catch and make management adjustments when required. Fishing impacts on non-target species and habitats must be minimised.

Maintaining stocks with enough biomass to be resilient to a changing environment is essential. Management should discourage targeting depleted fish stocks and encourage the reasonable harvest of more abundant species. The use of low impact fishing methods and gears should be encouraged.

Recreational fishing surveys are conducted annually by IMAS for rock lobster and abalone, with general fishery surveys conducted at five yearly intervals. While the general survey provides information to manage recreational fisheries, increasing survey frequency would provide a better understanding of any changes.

Another way of making sure our fisheries remain sustainable is encouraging a greater level of stewardship by fishers. A clear message from the community is that reducing the ecological impacts of recreational fishing is a fundamental responsibility for fishers.

This involves fishing within the rules, using appropriate gear, applying correct handling practices and reducing interactions with non-target species. Minimising catches for depleted fish stocks such as sand flathead and bastard trumpeter and blue warehou is also important.

## Principles

- Sustainable fisheries are underpinned by research and monitoring to provide information that is accurate, timely and at an appropriate scale.
- Fishers and the community understand and are confident in the information that is used for management.
- Fisheries are managed conservatively according to the best information to promote abundant stocks and minimise impacts to non-target species and marine habitats.
- Fishing gear and methods should minimise damage to target and non-target species and habitats.
- A precautionary approach to managing fisheries will be adopted in the absence of adequate information or in areas where climate change poses a threat to species and habitats.
- Management is guided by ensuring access to healthy fish stocks for future generations.
- Information used in making fisheries management decisions and about the decision making process will be publicly available.
- Where stocks are depleting, fishing pressure should be diverted to less sensitive areas or species.
- Habitat restoration has a role in sea fisheries management.

## Actions

1. Launch the *Flathead for the Future* program to rebuild sand flathead populations. Key activities include:
  - Develop a Flathead Recovery Plan to improve stock monitoring in key fishing areas, review catch limits and set stock rebuilding targets.
  - Evaluate commercial flathead fishing practices including bycatch and fishing pressure in popular recreational areas.
  - Assess options to introduce vessel monitoring systems for Danish seine vessels in Tasmanian waters.
  - Run a responsible flathead fishing campaign including recruiting ambassadors, holding regional forums, via Fishcare exhibits and using DPIPWWE website and communication channels.
2. Develop harvest strategies for the abalone, rock lobster and scallop fisheries and some scalefish species (integrated with commercial fisheries) and incorporate recreational fishing goals.
3. Undertake an audit of the use and impacts of recreational gillnets, beach seine nets and set-lines and consult on a strategy to reduce their impacts.
4. Evaluate the impacts of other recreational gear and methods on target and non-target species and habitats.
5. Review the Recreational Fishing Survey with emphasis on the frequency, scale and complementary technologies such as web cams and app.
6. Develop a new project with IMAS and CMS to better understand implications of climate change for recreational fishing in Tasmania; and
7. Promote public understanding of fish stock health and recreational fishing impacts through DPIPWWE and IMAS communications.
8. Establish a code of practice for wildlife interactions and a reporting mechanism for threatened and endangered species interactions.



## **Outcome 6: Improving capacity to support recreational fishing**

### **By 2030, we will see measurable improvements in:**

- Collaborative partnerships with organisations including commercial, community, academic, non-government, philanthropic, volunteer, and government agencies to deliver recreational fisheries priorities
- Closer working relationship between government agencies that contribute to providing Tasmanian recreational fishing experiences
- A better understanding of and respect for Aboriginal fishing through a closer working relationship with Aboriginal people and organisations

Resources and funding to deliver recreational sea fisheries management in Tasmania relies largely on revenue from recreational sea fishing licences. In Tasmania, fishers currently need a sea fishing licence to catch high value species that require complex management. These include abalone, rock lobster and scallops. High impact fishing methods such as gillnetting and set-lining are also licensed.

As part of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* review, existing recreational licensing arrangements will be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with both fisher expectations and emerging management requirements. Current Government policy is not to introduce a licence for saltwater rod and line fishing.

In some cases, delivering on new priorities and dealing with emerging issues will be made possible by redirecting resources. We will prioritise resources to deliver strategic priorities, support communications and engagement improvements and modernise compliance reporting systems.

Research and information needs will be met by prioritising Strategy projects within the long-standing partnership between the Tasmanian Government and IMAS under the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration (SMRCA).

The Strategy identifies emerging priorities that form a basis for prioritising government resources, future grant funding proposals to Federal programs, industry and even philanthropic organisations and State Government budget requests. It also provides a roadmap for community and other non-government groups to share stewardship activities with government, philanthropic and private sector organisations.

## Principles

- Management activities are adequately planned and resourced.
- Agency partnerships and collaborations with non-government organisations and commercial operators will produce efficient service delivery to recreational fishers.
- Government will support the delivery of recreational fishing activities and community stewardship initiatives either directly or by non-government organisations.
- Recreational fishers contribute to management costs through sea fishing licences.
- Monies collected through recreational sea fishing licences will be used for managing recreational sea fishing.
- Recognising the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing, the Government will continue to assist in funding its management.

## Actions

1. Consult with recreational sea fishers on options to improve recreational fisheries management in Tasmania as part of the planned review of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*.
2. Investigate efficiencies and collaboration opportunities with the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) to improve coordination of service delivery to inland and marine recreational fishers.
3. Conduct regular meetings with the IFS and MAST to develop educational partnerships. This could include service agreements for closer collaboration on engagement programs (e.g. Fishcare) and public events.
4. Ensure a partnership approach with TARFish and IMAS to target priority actions under this Strategy.
5. Establish a collaborative Recreational Fishing Inter-Departmental Committee with IFS, MAST, Tasmania Police, the Parks and Wildlife Service and DPIPW.
6. Identify co-investment opportunities with TARFish, IMAS, Department of State Growth, IFS, MAST, NRMs, Brand Tasmania and other Tasmanian industry partners including Covid-19 recovery opportunities, national habitat restoration citizen science and philanthropic programs.
7. Assess the feasibility of, and requirements for, partnering with sea fishing sponsors and philanthropic organisations.
8. Increase staff capacity for policy and communications to progress Strategy priorities and emerging management issues.
9. Improve compliance reporting services including lost gear.

# PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVIEW

The *Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy* covers a period of 10 years from September 2021 to September 2030.

All 52 Actions will commence within the first 5 years and many are ongoing.

New actions will be added as the Strategy progresses, particularly in the latter half. The nature of additional actions, including extensions or changes to identified projects, will depend on their outcomes and continued relevance. The ability to consider further actions will also depend on available funding and resources.



A Strategy Implementation Plan will be developed in the second half of 2021. The Plan will provide a detailed implementation, monitoring and review agenda.


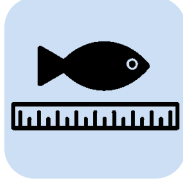
Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be developed for each action. The performance assessment of all initiatives will be undertaken and reported on annually.

Major reviews will be undertaken in 2024/25 and 2028/29 to assess the performance of actions and identify new priorities to ensure proposed outcomes are realised.

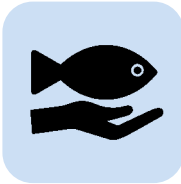

The Strategy will be implemented from September 2021.

# APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Outcome Area	Actions	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Ongoing
<b>1. Valuing recreational sea fishing</b>  	Include recreational fishing performance measures in fishery harvest plans						
	Develop policy to address resource sharing						
	Undertake statewide socioeconomic research with IMAS and CMS						
	Assess options to recognise recreational fishing in LMRM Act review						
	Work with TARFish, IMAS, IFS and national fishing organisations to monitor national and global recreational fishing developments						
	Promote the importance of recreational fisheries and the needs of fishers						
<b>2. Involving the community in fisheries management</b>  	Conduct annual Fishing Forums						
	Engage fishers at public events						
	Review RecFAC reporting and representativeness						
	Work with TARFish, local fishing clubs, IMAS and CMS to review processes by which the community provides advice to Government						
	Work with organisations to involve recreational fishers in data collection						
	Promote citizen science and stewardship projects and establish a register of volunteers						
	Investigate fishers nominating partial licence fees for preferred use						

Outcome Area	Actions	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Ongoing
<b>3. Making it easier for people to go fishing</b> 	Convene a workshop to understand participation barriers						
	Draft a 'No Barriers' policy						
	Establish a female fishing network						
	Assess the feasibility of a 'buddy style' program for mobility impaired fishers						
	Complete an audit of recreational fishing infrastructure						
	Establish a Recreational Infrastructure fund						
	Conduct a study on artificial reefs and FADs to better understand their impacts and value						
	Work with MAST and TARFish to develop a code of practice for fishing around FADs and artificial reefs						
	Review rules to allow catch sharing among lobster pot fishers						
	Review rules to allow catch sharing among scallop divers						
	<b>4. Promoting responsible recreational fishing</b> 	Build a new sea fishing website					
Streamline the Recreational Sea Fishing Guide							
Upgrade the Tasmanian Sea Fishing Guide App							
Work with IMAS to communicate more fisheries science and management							
Produce videos on responsible fishing, fisheries management and science							
Engage fishing identities and sponsor champions to promote messages							
Reinvigorate the Fishcare program							
Engage with tackle shops, charter fishers and marine businesses on key messages							
Promote responsible fishing to CaLD fishers and organisations							
Work with TARFish to update the Recreational Marine Fishing Tasmanian Code of Conduct							
Assess trends in fisheries offences							
Work with science communicators to better use innovative technologies							



Outcome Area	Actions	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Ongoing
<b>5. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and habitats</b> 	Launch the <i>Flathead for the Future</i> program						
	Develop harvest strategies for the abalone, rock lobster, scallop and some scalefish fisheries						
	Undertake an audit of recreational gillnetting, beach seining and set-lining						
	Evaluate recreational gear impacts and methods						
	Review the Recreational Fishing Survey						
	Develop a new project to better understand the implications of climate change for recreational fishing						
	Promote understanding of stock health						
	Establish a code of practice for wildlife interactions and a reporting mechanism for threatened and endangered species interactions						
<b>6. Improving capacity to support recreational fishing</b> 	Consult with fishers on options to improve recreational fisheries management						
	Develop efficiencies and collaborations with the IFS						
	Conduct annual meetings with IFS and MAST to develop partnerships						
	Ensure a partnership approach with TARFish and IMAS to target priority Strategy actions						
	Establish collaborative Recreational Fishing Inter-Department Committee						
	Identify co-investment opportunities with other agencies and partners						
	Assess the feasibility of partnering with sponsors and philanthropic organisations						
	Increase staff capacity to progress Strategy priorities and emerging management issues						
	Improve compliance reporting services including lost gear						

# ACRONYMS

## Tasmanian Government Agencies

**DPIPWE** – Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

**IFS** – Inland Fisheries Service

**MAST** – Marine and Safety Tasmania

**PWS** – Parks and Wildlife Service

## Research Organisations

**IMAS** – Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

**SMRCA** – Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement

**CMS** – Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania

**FRDC** – Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

**CSIRO** – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

**RedMap** – Range Extension Database and Mapping Project

**Research Angler Logbook Program** – An IMAS recreational diary-based survey targeting all Tasmanian marine fisheries.

**Tuna Champions** - An initiative of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation in collaboration with IMAS.

## Peak Body

**TARFish** – Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc

## Ministerial Advisory Committee

**RecFAC** – Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee

## Non-Government Organisations

**Ozfish** – OzFish Unlimited: Supports restoration of recreational fishing waterways.

**NRM** – Natural Resource Management (North, South and Cradle Coast organisations)

**MESA** – Marine Education Society of Australasia

**ARFF** – Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation

## Other Acronyms

**CaLD Fishers** – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Fishers

**FAD** – Fish Aggregation Device

**LMRMA** – *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*



Wild Fisheries Management Branch  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water And Environment

134 Macquarie Street  
HOBART TAS 7000

Phone: **03 6165 3047**  
Email: [recfishingstrategy@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:recfishingstrategy@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)  
Visit: [www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rec-strategy)

