

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc

REPRESENTATIVE HANDBOOK

The Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc (TARFish) is a fully independent, incorporated organisation recognized by the Tasmanian Government as the peak body representing the recreational fishing sector in Tasmania.

TARFish was established in 2003 by agreement between a number of State-wide recreational fishing organisations, and others (including government) closely involved in the recreational fishing sector in Tasmania.

The inaugural members associations of TARFish were:

- Australian Underwater Federation (AUF)
- Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA)
- Tasmanian Game Fishing Association (TGFA)
- Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA)
- Sea Charter Boat Owner Operators Tasmania (SCBOOT).

The TARFish Rules also provide for Regional Representation Groups (RRGs). The purpose of the RRGs is to provide representative opportunity to the 125,000 Tasmanians who participate in recreational fishing each year but may not belong to a fishing organization. In order to maximize this representative opportunity, the RRGs are given a wide and flexible definition (see below).

This Handbook documents the knowledge, experience, skills and expertise required by RRG representatives, their role within TARFish, and other operational matters.

This Handbook is a working document which will be reviewed annually and modified where necessary.

1. HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN TARFISH

TARFish representatives may be:

- Individuals who can claim to represent a particular region of the State, or a particular fishery, and who can establish a communication network and encourage active participation within that region or fishery, for the purposes of representation; or
- Individuals who have particular knowledge, experience, skills or expertise, through professional activities or community involvement, of special benefit to TARFish and recreational fishing.

Interested individuals may apply to TARFish to participate as a representative. Invitations to apply are issued regularly in the media by TARFish, and remain open on an on-going basis.

Alternatively, TARFish may invite individuals nominated by members as having appropriate knowledge, skills or expertise. Regular public forums held by TARFish may be useful in identifying interested individuals with appropriate skills.

In either case, representation will be skills-based and expertise-based.

2. NECESSARY ATTRIBUTES

TARFish representatives need:

- A bona fide interest in recreational fishing, and a commitment to promoting the best interests of recreational fishing in Tasmania;
- Commitment to TARFish and its objectives (as defined in the Rules, Strategic Plan, Vision Statement and other corporate documents);
- Knowledge, experience, skills or expertise relevant to recreational fishing and of assistance to TARFish in policy formulation and the fulfilment of the Association's obligations and commitments;
- Active participation within the community, which affords them a broad and respected reputation within the community, regular communication with the community, and a balanced view of community concerns in relation to recreational fishing;
- An ability and commitment to fulfil the role of representative.

3. ROLE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The role of TARFish representatives is:

- To participate actively in TARFish meetings and related activities, including policy development, proposals and recommendations, submissions, various seminars, workshops, committees and councils such as RecFAC, Recfish, TasFRAB and TAFI research groups;
- To identify and address relevant recreational fishing issues;
- To represent adequately and impartially the views and interests of the recreational fishing community;
- To disseminate information widely and regularly within the recreational fishing community;
- To support and promote TARFish objectives and policies.

4. OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Financial Matters:

- For representatives travelling to TARFish meetings, travel costs will be paid as determined by the TARFish Executive Committee.

- Representatives will not receive any payment such as sitting fees to attend TARFish meetings or other TARFish commitments.
- Out-of-pocket expenses may be reimbursed, as determined by the TARFish Executive Committee. Claims must include supporting documents such as tax receipts.

Conflict of Interest:

- Representatives must declare any conflict of interest, actual or potential, in relation to any issue under the jurisdiction of TARFish.

Voting Rights:

- Representatives are covered by the TARFish Rules and have full voting rights within TARFish.