



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

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BROADBILL BONANZA

The Tasmanian recreational fishing scene has been set alight with an exciting new fishery. Broadbill Swordfish have recently been successfully targeted and caught by a small band of dedicated recreational fishers off the South East coast of Tasmania. There seems to be good numbers of Broadbill in our waters with very little known about their movements and distribution. Broadbill Swordfish are held in high regard in fishing circles for their eating and fighting qualities.

Due to the lack of information about this fishery the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and TARFish have teamed up in a joint partnership to generate scientific research into Broadbill Swordfish in Tasmanian waters.

GFAA President, Brett Cleary, said “there is huge potential for this fishery in Tasmania and we need to ensure we have the knowledge to manage this developing fishery. Interest in Tasmania’s Broadbill catches is high locally, and on the mainland, with local charter operators already receiving requests to target these fish.”

TARFish CEO, Mark Nikolai, said “to date only female Broadbills have been caught up to 238 kg and we don’t know if the males travel to Tasmania. There is much to learn and it is exciting to be at the cusp of a potential new recreational fishing opportunity.”

Broadbill are a popular sport fish, though elusive and highly sought after by avid game fishers. These fish are found widely in tropical and temperate parts of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and can typically be found from near the surface to a depth of 550 metres. They commonly reach 3 metres in length and 650 kg in weight.

Brett Cleary went on to say “It is now up to recreational fishers to take up the initiative and learn as much as they can about the species and the Tasmanian population. This is a rare opportunity for anglers to show their stewardship and be proactive in getting the scientific research in place before this fishery explodes.”

An information night for fishers has been organised for 6.30pm on 19th August at the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania where well known fishing guru Al McGlashan, local Broadbill fisher Leo Miller and Dr Sean Tracey from IMAS will give freely of their knowledge and experience with Broadbill Swordfish.

Contact Brett Cleary, President GFAA on 0418 121 317 or Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer, TARFish 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.