



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

Media Statement released on 22nd April 2015

REC FISHERS DEMAND AFMA APOLOGY

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority yesterday released details on the deaths of 4 dolphins and 2 seals as a consequence of industrial scale fishing in the small pelagic fishery by the Geelong Star on its first fishing trip.

Whilst the deaths of the protected species that has occurred is a most concerning issue what has Tasmanian recreational fishers more “up in arms” this morning is the comment made by AFMA in their media release around the reporting of the deaths “Unfortunately, from time to time both commercial and recreational fishers will accidentally harm marine mammals and other protected species while seeking to put seafood on our tables.”

TARFish has written to AFMA this morning asking why AFMA has reduced itself to slur the 120,000 strong recreational fishing sector in Tasmania when reporting the marine mammal deaths caused by industrial scale fishing operations in the small pelagic fishery.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai said “If this is the tack, i.e. inferring industrial scale fishing impacts in the small pelagic fishery to recreational fishing is the way forward for AFMA when reporting unintended consequences of industrial scale fishing then AFMA’s efforts over the last 3 years to build stronger relationships with the recreational fishing community has been a total waste of time for AFMA and TARFish who passionately and constructively looks after the interests of recreational fishers in Tasmania.”

TARFish has asked AFMA to:

- 1) Immediately apologise to the 5 million strong recreational fishing community for the ill-considered comment
- 2) publically withdrawn the comment and
- 3) confirm that any future comments in relation to consequences of industrial scale fishing in the small pelagic fishery are confined to that sector without spurious reference to other sectors

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.