



# TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

[www.tarfish.org](http://www.tarfish.org)

*Looking after the  
interests of recreational  
marine fishers*

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## **Stormy Seas Ahead after Factory Trawler Snubs Rec Fishers**

The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF), the national organisation representing the recreational fishing community, has announced that discussions with the Small Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SPFIA) have collapsed. Talks have been occurring over the past two months in an attempt to work with the industrial fishing sector in order to protect recreational fishing areas from industrial fishing activities.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai said the collapse in talks had occurred because the SPFIA rejected a detailed proposal developed by ARFF and its members (including the peak national and state organisations representing the recreational fishing community) that aimed to address recreational fishing concerns about the 95m factory trawler known as the Geelong Star, given the federal government had approved the vessel to fish.

“The SPFIA had our proposal for over a month and over that time has not provided a detailed response to it. There is little point trying to continue talks when the SPFIA is not willing to work with us on the issues outlined in the proposal. They have effectively walked away from the talks,” ARFF managing director Allan Hansard said. Our reasonable proposal was based on working with the vessel operators on where, when and how the Geelong Star fished and would have affected less than 10 percent of the 3 million square kilometres that the Geelong Star can fish as part of the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery,” Hansard said.

The SPFIA’s decision to reject the recreational fishing sector’s offer to work cohesively on industrial fishing issues now means it is likely the nation’s 5 million recreational fishers will ramp up opposition to the controversial factory trawler’s plans to continue to operate in Australian waters. The Geelong Star has already come under fire for killing 8 dolphins and 4 seals in its first two fishing trips with new regulations governing its actions doing little to quell public and political outrage over its operations.

The response from the SPFIA is very disappointing, Mark said. “It demonstrates that the industrial fishing sector does not take the concerns of recreational fishers seriously.

ARFF and its members remain committed to pursuing an outcome that protects recreational fishing areas from industrial scale fishing in the Small Pelagic Fishery.

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.*