



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

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Crustacean Cuts Compelling

Minister Bryan Green has today announced a new East Coast Management Strategy for ailing Rock Lobster stocks in Tasmania.

As TARFish have noted before there is no doubt the rock lobster fishery is facing significant challenges and if we want to continue to reap the social benefits of recreational fishing fish stocks must be managed using the best available scientific knowledge. TARFish are pleased Minister Green has followed the compelling scientific evidence and scenario modelling developed by the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) on the Southern Rock Lobster.

TARFish believe the announced measures will contribute to addressing the stock issues facing the fishery which are largely being driven by a lack of juvenile lobsters settling in our coastal waters.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai believes the announced measures will “leave fish in the water” which is what we have been asking Minister Green to implement over the last couple of years as this fishery has been declining. Mark said “the key to success of the measures, and the significant reduction in rock lobster bag/possession limits implemented last year on recreational fishers, will be ongoing scientific monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the various measures on rebuilding rock lobster stocks on the East Coast.

Recreational rock lobster fishing in Tasmania is a very popular and significant financial contributor to Tasmania’s economy with IMAS estimating we spend around \$24 million each year fishing for rock lobsters.

The East Coast is the most popular recreational rock lobster fishing region in state waters with around 70% of the total recreational catch coming from this area and its value underpins many regional communities on the East Coast. The management measures announced today will not “fix” the stock problems in the short term and all stakeholders must accept that it will take years for rock lobster stocks to recover.

Contact Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer on 0403 868 004 or 1300 665 225 for further information.

TARFish is the independent, government recognised peak body looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.