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## **Draft Rock Lobster Plan Released**

The state government has today released the long awaited Draft Rock Lobster Management Plan and TARFish are pleased Minister Bryan Green has followed the best available scientific knowledge and scenario modelling developed by the IMAS - Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (formerly TAFI) in support of a sustainable fishery.

It is well known that the rock lobster fishery in Tasmania, and other areas around Australia, is experiencing challenging times. Greatly reduced rock lobster stocks have been driven by a number of factors including below average small rock lobsters settling in Tasmania, warming coastal waters and the impacts of marine pests such as *Centrostephanus rodgersii* (Long Spined Sea Urchin).

Throughout the review process TARFish have consistently called on the government to implement a suite of management measures that are:

1. Fair and equitable across all stakeholder groups
2. Designed to “leave fish in the water”, and
3. Focused on the problem areas such as the East and South East Coasts

Detailed information on the range of proposed measures is available from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) or from the TARFish website.

TARFish believes the draft management plan measures will help address the current stock issues facing the industry and encourages recreational fishers to submit any comments to DPIPWE by the closing date on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

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.*