



# 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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## Rock Lobster Cuts Essential

Minister Bryan Green has today announced the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the 2011/12 Rock Lobster season at 1273 tonnes, (1103 tonne for the commercial sector and 170 tonne for the recreational sector.) The 170 tonnes allocated to the recreational sector is the minimum level agreed between TARFish, the state government and the commercial fishing industry in 2005.

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 significant scientific evidence and scenario modelling developed by the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) in setting the TAC for the 2011/12 season.

TARFish believe the TAC will contribute to addressing the issues of previous stock declines, significantly reduced small lobster settlement and the impacts of marine pests such as the Long Spined Sea Urchin. It must be remembered the TAC is only one of many measures available to manage the rock lobster fishery.

TARFish believe the TAC for 2011/12 will assist in rebuilding rock lobster stocks around the state for the benefit of all stakeholders. Whilst no one wants to see continuing reductions, the fishery faces ongoing challenges that must be addressed in a meaningful and practical way.

Recreational rock lobster fishing in Tasmania is a very popular and significant financial contributor to Tasmania's economy with TAFI estimating we spend around \$24 million a year fishing for rock lobsters. The recreational fishing sector will continue to further consider appropriate measures for problematic regional areas such as the East Coast through the Rock Lobster Rules Review process currently underway.

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.*