



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

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Ministers Moves on Rec Fisher Concerns

Federal Fisheries Minister Joe Ludwig and Environment Minister Tony Burke have listened, and acted decisively on the concerns that recreational fishers raised in relation to the Super Trawler, MV Margiris.

The joint announcement by Ministers Burke and Ludwig to prevent the Super Trawler from fishing in Australian waters for up to 2 years whilst “further assessment is undertaken by an expert panel” has been warmly welcomed by recreational fishers.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai said the ministers had done exactly what the recreational fishing sector has asked to be done. Through our involvement with Minister Ludwig’s Working Group our concerns around, the extent and rates of movement of small pelagic fish, the amount of time it would take for local populations of small pelagic fish to recover from intensive localized fishing and the size of the resident population of Jack Mackerel on the East Coast of Tasmania would now be investigated.

Industrial scale fishing operations have never occurred in the waters surrounding Tasmania and there are widespread community concerns about the potential social, economic and environmental impacts on local fish stocks which we expect the expert panel will investigate thoroughly.

Minister Ludwig also announced “there’d be a root-and-branch review of the 20-year-old Fisheries Management Act”. TARFish has consistently noted the issues it has with the Small Pelagic Fishery relate to the underlying fishery rules and strongly agrees it is a timely announcement that the Act is to be comprehensively reviewed given technological advancements in current day commercial fishing operations.

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.