

Media Statement released 14th October 2009

Scalefish Rules Review

TARFish have received a briefing from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Heritage on Minister Llewellyn's decisions in relation to the Scalefish Rules Review which have been announced today. TARFish have been actively involved in the process to review the rules and have attended working group meetings, attended all 14 public meetings held by the department across Tasmania, conducted our own information evenings on the initial department recommendations, put in two public submissions and have made representations directly to the minister on key outcomes recreational fishers want to see as part of the review.

The Chief Executive Officer of TARFish, Mark Nikolai, said that recreational marine fishers in Tasmania wanted the Scalefish Review to consider 3 key criteria:

1. Changes to the rules must be supported by robust scientific information and where this information is not available then decisions must be based on the precautionary principle,
2. The outcomes of the review must be predominated on an ecosystem based fisheries management approach, and
3. Decisions must be based on sustainable fishing for the future, looking after our fisheries and protecting the environment.

TARFish have been consistent with their review submissions and the key messages they have been advocating during the review process with government and the department. Mark said "Whilst some sectors may disagree with some of the individual changes the minister has decided on, the overall suite of management changes supports the 3 key criteria TARFish, on behalf of the recreational marine fishing community, have been advocating throughout the Scalefish Review process."

The TARFish Committee will shortly be provided with a comprehensive Scalefish Rules Review Report prepared by the department and will scrutinise in detail Minister Llewellyn's decisions and update recreational marine fishers in a program of public meetings to be held throughout Tasmania in November.

Contact Mark Nikolai, 0403 868 004 or 1300 665 225 for further information.

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



TARFish Chief Executive Officer
Mark Nikolai

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