

MEDIA RELEASES

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing

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(TARFish)

ABN 92 079 457 285

Media Statement

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Hopes on Minister to defend shark nursery from dredges

The Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc (known as TARFish) totally and most vehemently opposes a request by commercial scallop fishers to be given access to the East Coast Waters Shark Refuge Area.

TARFish is the peak body representing recreational fishing in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Scallop Fishermen's Association is pressing the Minister for Primary Industries & Water, David Llewellyn, to allow commercial scallop fishers to dredge for scallops within the boundary of this protected shark nursery area.

The basis for these shark refuge areas is to provide protection for shark pups.

The Department of Primary Industries & Water has a long-standing policy of prohibiting commercial scallop dredging in these shark refuge areas. On behalf of recreational fishers and the community, TARFish applauds this policy.

In making this request, commercial scallop fishers have ridden roughshod over the Government's well-established process of consultation with the community and ignored the Minister's own advisory committees.

TARFish has absolute faith that the Minister, David Llewellyn, will reject this request and in so doing, demonstrate his regard for those

in the community who value the precious marine ecology that envelops Tasmania.

The Independent Chair of TARFish, Cheryl Arnol, says, The Minister, David Llewellyn, fully appreciates the environmental issues at stake and will not be railroaded by the scallop industry with its ill-informed request”.

“In rejecting this request, and maintaining the boundary of this shark refuge area, the Minister will not only be protecting the shark nursery but he will also be sending a clear signal to those who ignore his process for consultation and decision-making”, says Ms Arnol.

“The Minister has been diligent in establishing numerous advisory committees through which the community can have a say on issues such as this. The scallop industry must respect the Minister’s consultation process”.

Ms Arnol emphasised, “The Minister’s rejection of this request is important not only for the marine environment of Tasmania, but also for the community consultation process itself”.

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