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## Rock Lobster Fishery Review

The rock lobster fishery has continued to show worrying signs that the fishery faces a number of challenges which are expected to have a detrimental effect on the future sustainability of the fishery unless measures are taken to address the range of issues. The state government commenced the review of the Rock Lobster Management Plan in April 2009 and will be holding public meetings commencing in March 2010 to hear people's views, concerns and ideas on how to address the broad range of issues facing the industry.

1. Recreational fishers have indicated to TARFish that they want to have a fair expectation of catching a rock lobster when they go fishing. Tasmania's 128,000 recreational fishers provide significant social and economic benefits to nearly every coastal community around Tasmania. Recreational rock lobster fishing licences have consistently increased each year since 1996 which means that to ensure a future share of the fishery is allocated to the expected new entrants into the recreational fishing sector TARFish will be pursuing an increase in the resource allocation to the recreational sector from 170t to 250t per annum. The annual resource allocation is not linked to the bag and possession limits that apply to recreational fishers.
2. Some stakeholders in the fishery have indicated that the method used by TAFI to estimate the annual recreational rock lobster catch needs review. To that end TARFish have already prepared a project proposal, which is currently with the Minister for Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, to undertake an independent scientific peer review of the annual recreational rock lobster catch method. This project, if approved by the minister, will be funded by an allocation from the annual marine fishing licence fee revenue collected by government.
3. TARFish, like other key stakeholders in the fishery, remain focused and committed to supporting a sustainable fishery for future generations of fishers. TARFish will carefully consider the range of management measures available to address the broad spectrum of issues facing the fishery. TARFish will actively participate in open discussions and forums to ensure recreational fishers are aware of the information, issues and possible solutions as the Rock Lobster Management Plan Review proceeds in 2010.

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.*