



# SECURING OUR FISHING FUTURE

## RECREATIONAL FISHING ELECTION PRIORITIES

TARFish is the peak body for recreational sea fishers in Tasmania.

We have prepared our *Securing Our Fishing Future* priorities for the Tasmanian State Election on 23 March 2024. We will proactively represent recreational fishers with Tasmania's political parties in the lead up to the election to secure commitments that will secure our fishing future.

Importantly, TARFish does not support a general salt-water rod and line fishing licence on recreational fishers.

On behalf of Tasmania's recreational fishers, we ask Tasmania's political parties to demonstrate their support for the following priorities:

### 1. SECURING RECREATIONAL FISHING ACCESS

Recognising the rights and aspirations of Tasmania's recreational fishers by:

- **Explicit recognition of recreational fishers in any new or amended legislation.** This includes a requirement to take the rights and interests of recreational fishers into account in all decisions by which they will be affected and recognises the social/economic importance of recreational fishing.
- **Deliver a review of sand flathead management settings in 2025 and guarantee sand flathead restrictions will be relaxed once the stock reaches recovery targets.**
- **Fast-track resource sharing agreements for rock lobster, abalone, calamari.**
- **Protect recreational fisher access to emerging species** such as snapper, King George whiting and yellowtail kingfish including limits on further expansion of commercial fishing until there is sufficient certainty that the population(s) are sufficient and established (i.e. self-sustaining).
- **Implement commercial fishing exclusion zones around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and develop a FAD code of conduct.**
- **Commit to:**
  - **No further cuts and restrictions to recreational rock lobster fishers**
  - **Guarantee recreational rock lobster fishers 90 tonnes or 50% of total allowable catch (TAC) in the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone (ECSRZ).**

### 2. SAFER FISHING AND BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF FISHING RULES

Support safer fishing by:

- **Invest \$150k in webcams at boat ramps and trailer parking areas** to protect fishers from events such as trailer tampering and vandalism.
- **Invest \$150k in expanding the network of weather buoys in key fishing locations** to support informed decision making by fishers when they go fishing.

Reduce illegal fishing by increasing compliance checks through:

- **Authorising fisheries officers around the state to undertake compliance checks** of fishers particularly at boat ramps, jetties, and known fishing/diving spots.
- **Increasing support for marine police**

### 3. MAKING IT EASIER TO GO FISHING

Invest \$3m in programs and infrastructure so that those that want to go fishing can go fishing safely and easily.

- Develop a recreational fishing infrastructure plan
- Invest \$3m over 4 years into infrastructure that makes it easier for people to go fishing including;
  - Public toilets at boat ramps and jetties to support families to fish
  - All-ability access fishing platforms and jetties
  - Walking tracks and trails for the purpose of accessing fishing spots
- Support Tasmanians to keep fishing by;
  - Changing group fishing rules for licensed fisheries (e.g. scallops) so that older and mobility impaired Tasmanians (and others) can continue to participate
  - A focussed participation program to support older Tasmanians to keep fishing

### 4. MORE FISH, BETTER FISHING

Invest \$5m in stock enhancement opportunities to support better recreational fishing

- Restocking larger, quicker growing sand flathead in key regions – particularly the south-east
- Expanding the fish aggregating devices (FADs) program
- Includes a provision of \$525,000 over three years for rock lobster translocation

Invest \$1.15m to help recreational fishers reduce their impact by:

- Investing \$150,000 for a state-wide “tackle-bin” initiative
- Investing \$1m to support installation and management of fish cleaning stations at key locations.

### 5. SUPPORT A STRONGER VOICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERS

Invest \$1.2m over 3 years directly from the Fish Wise Fund to support TARFish to:

- Provide strategic leadership and a single, independent voice of the recreational fishing sector to Government and stakeholders.
- deliver programs and services to recreational fishers including managing the state-wide FADs program.

### 6. VALUE RECREATIONAL FISHERS AND THE TASMANIAN COMMUNITY

Guarantee independent and ongoing funding for the sector without imposing a salt-water rod and line fishing licence:

- Establish a Recreational Fishing Trust administered by an independent Board with funds to be used for; research, improving sustainability and promoting policies and programs that support recreational fishing and to provide base funding for the recreational peak body and ensure its independence.
- Fund the Recreational Fishing Trust Account from the Fishwise Fund and new or existing commercial fishing resource royalties and from a new aquaculture expansion offset levy with a proportion guaranteed to support recreational fishing so that recreational fishers become shareholders in our shared marine estate.

Provide \$1.8m to support and protect quality research and stock assessments under the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration (SMRCA) by:

- Providing \$1.8m to cover the current funding gap
- Committing to index the value of the agreement each year of the agreement over the life of the agreement

Remove inactive, non-transferable commercial fishing licences.