



# BETTER FISHING FOR EVERYONE

## RECREATIONAL FISHING ELECTION PRIORITIES

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

We have prepared our *Better Fishing for Everyone* priorities for the Tasmanian State Election on 1 May 2021. We will proactively represent recreational fishers with Tasmania's political parties in the lead up to the election to secure commitments that will deliver *Better Fishing For Everyone*.

TARFish does not support a general salt-water rod and line fishing licence or other broad-based fee on recreational sea fishing.

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

### 1. BETTER BOAT RAMPS AND PARKING, MORE ACCESSIBLE FISHING

- Develop an infrastructure strategy jointly with Marine and Safety Tasmania, Department of Fisheries, Local Government and TARFish.

Invest \$3m over 4 years in expansion and upgrades of boat ramps and parking around Tasmania

- Establish a recreational fishing infrastructure fund managed jointly by Marine and Safety Tasmania, Department of Fisheries, and Local Government to oversee and implement infrastructure upgrades and new infrastructure state-wide.

Invest \$3.5m in programs and infrastructure so that those that want to go fishing can go fishing safely.

- Develop an *All Tasmanians Recreational Sea Fishing Access Strategy*
- 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
- Support Tasmanians to keep fishing by:
  - Changing group fishing rules for licensed fisheries (e.g. scallops and rock lobster) so that older and mobility impaired Tasmanians (and others) can continue to participate
  - A focussed participation program to support older Tasmanians to keep fishing

### 2. MORE FISH, BETTER FISHING

Invest \$1m over 4 years to support satisfying fishing experiences by;

- Develop a resource sharing policy and implement formal resource sharing arrangements that protects recreational fisher access to key species including; rock lobster, scallop, and abalone
- Invest \$750k in a Recovery Plan for Flathead
- No further cuts and restrictions to rock lobster fishers
- Fix rock lobster access on the East Coast:
  - Guarantee recreational rock lobster fishers 90 tonnes or 50% of Total Allowable Catch
  - No further cuts to individual bag, possession limits or season length
  - Recreational rock lobster only areas (spatial/temporal)
- Invest \$250k for 2 new FAD's, develop a FAD code of conduct and implement a commercial fishing exclusion zone around FAD's
- Protect recreational fisher access to emerging species including snapper, King George Whiting and king fish.

### 3. EMPOWER RECREATIONAL FISHERS

\$800k over 4 years for the recreational fishing sector to coordinate and deliver:

- a Flathead Fisher education program (\$350 over 2 years) via a partnership between TARFish and IMAS
- Fund a 4-year Fisher Stewardship Program to improve best practice and fish welfare
- Support Tasmania's participation in the nation-wide *Gone Fishing Day* each year.
- Support a TARFish-led mental health program for recreational fishers
- More resources to support fisher education and policing including improved signage and communication where fishing happens
- Assist TARFish to improve recreational sea fisher education and engagement using social media and other technology

#### 4. HEALTHY HABITATS

Take action on threats to fish abundance and the marine environment including:

- Preventing further expansion of the long-spined sea urchin (*centrostephanus*)
- Prioritising kelp restoration
- Reducing marine debris, particularly from aquaculture operations

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

Invest \$1m over 4 years to support increased fisher participation in recreational fisheries management:

- Support TARFish to provide a single and independent voice of the fishing sector to Government through guaranteed base funding of \$1m over 4 years
- Restructure the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RecFAC) so more recreational fishers can participate
- Support TARFish to undertake an organisational renewal project that facilitates fisher representative elections in 2022-23

#### 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 or other broad-based fee on recreational sea fishing:

- Transparent reporting on expenditure and return to recreational fishers from licence fees and the ability of recreational fishers to have input into their expenditure once administration fees are removed.
- Establish a Recreational Fishing Trust Account 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 peak body and ensure its independence.
- Fund the Recreational Fishing Trust Account from new or existing commercial fishing resource royalties and from an aquaculture expansion offset levy with a proportion guaranteed to support recreational fishing so that recreational fishers become shareholders in our shared marine estate.
- Develop and implement a 10-year recreational sea fishing strategy
- Protect recreational fishing access and recreational fishing values in legislation
- Research that considers; the socio-economic value of recreational fishing, the aspirations of recreational fishers regarding the fishery being investigated, regionality and type of activity; and specific research to understand recreational fishing sectors.

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The *Better Fishing for Everyone* priority statement was prepared based on feedback from recreational fishers at recent fisher forums held around Tasmania, from the State Government's "For a Better Fishing Future" survey of over 2,300 recreational fishers and from TARFish's own position statements and Board expertise.