

**PUBLIC MEETING - SCALEFISH  
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**DATE:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
**VENUE:** FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 5.21pm

**ANNEXURES:** NRE Scalefish review Presentation

**PRESENT**

Mayor Rachel Summers  
Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace - Apology

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Warren Groves	General Manager
Andrew Killengray	Audio Visual Technical Supervisor
Rowena Gill	Acting Executive Officer
Sue Mythen	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Adrian Wheatley  
Craig Wheatley  
Jayden Wheatley  
Tavis Bell  
Kevin Haines  
Danny Wheatley  
Wendy Jubb Stoney  
Jana Monnone  
Graham Boyes  
Bill Hipkiss

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA (NRE)  
REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

Frances Seabourne (Commercial Scalefish Manager)  
Sven Frijlink (Recreational Fisheries Manager)  
Anne Crosby (Graduate Fisheries Engagement Officer)

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Rachel Summers began by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the palawa people of the trawulwai Nation. She recognised their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture of this island, and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcoming everyone to the Public Meeting called to discuss the State Government's Proposed rule changes for the Tasmanian Scalefish Fisheries. Consultation documents are available on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania Website and community members are invited to have your say by 11:59pm on 29 May 2023. Council has no part in the decision-making process on this issue – the State

Government will make all decisions. However, Council may make a submission on behalf of the community, based on the discussions at this meeting. Council encourages individual submissions also as the more representations, the stronger the case. Council is willing to assist those wishing to make a submission if they encounter difficulties.

The Mayor introduced representatives from NRE to discuss the Scalefish Review and proposed rule changes.

### **SCALEFISH PRESENTATION by NRE**

Anne Crosby thanked the Mayor for the introduction. Reassuring attendees the changes to the Scalefish fisheries are proposed at this stage and events such as these are to gauge community feel and feedback. Anne outlined the rules around questioning after the short presentation. Encouraging everyone to make submissions during the public consultation period 19<sup>th</sup> of April and 29<sup>th</sup> of May, information is available from the NRE website. Submissions will be collated, along with advice and recommendations from Fisheries advisory groups, then a formal recommendation will be made to the Minister. Rule changes will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023.

Sven Frijlink thanked attendees for turning up and shared his complimentary impressions of the island. He explained the Scalefish Review occurs every six to seven years. NRE conduct a stock take to see how fisheries are travelling and propose changes to turn the trends or trajectory around. The recent Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) assessment looks at yearly data to give each fishery a status. Focussing predominantly on fisheries that are depleted or depleting. IMAS assessment occurs every year and is a lengthy process when rule changes are proposed as fish stock worsen while this process is undertaken. Interim rules are sometimes implemented to help slow the rate of depletion in fisheries.

The Scalefish review also represents the first Stage of phasing out of recreational gill netting which is another change to promote of protection of fisheries. The proposed changes to gill netting include soak time and attendance.

### **SAND FLATHEAD**

70% of fish caught by Tasmanians are Sand Flathead.

Recent IMAS assessment has indicated stocks are depleted. This is more pronounced in the southern end of state.

The proposes for Sand flathead for recreational fishers include:

- change bag and possession limits, by decreasing bag limit to 5, from 20; and
- change to min and max size limits, increases in min length to 35cms to deal with generic stunting.

For commercial fishers with Sand flathead making up roughly 2% of their catch, the proposed cap is 25kg a day. Previously unlimited.

Comments were made about the difficulty of distinguishing between Sand and Tiger Flathead.

### **SOUTHERN CALAMARI**

IMAS has assessed stocks as depleting since 2017.

Targeting by Fishers of spawning stocks in the southern regions, leads to high catch rates however they are a poor indicator of abundance. The fear is the Northwest Coast will follow the same trend if action is not taken.

The proposes for calamari for recreational fishers include:

- reduce bag limit from 10 fish to 5 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from unlimited to 15

For Commercial fishers introduction of a specific calamari licenses for the North East and North East, and limit the number of licenses available. With trip limits to apply for fishers fishing outside their calamari license area. In the Furneaux Group the daily limit for licenses holders will be an extended to 100Kg per day.

### **STRIPED TRUMPETER**

The current assessment classifies stocks as depleted. To rebuild the fishery the following changes are proposed for Striped trumpeter for recreational fishers these include:

- reduce bag limit from 4 fish to 2 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from 20 to 6
- Increase min length from 55cm which is too low for sexual maturity to 62cm

(This allows fish to spawn at least once before they are removed from the stock.)

For Commercial fishers the trip limit of 250kg to be reduced to 50kg in eastern region and 150kg western region.

For Commonwealth license holders propose 150kg trip limit to 50 kg limit in both regions.

### **BASTARD TRUMPETER**

The current assessment classifies stocks as depleted. Previously legal is size less than size of maturity. Western stocks are classified as healthy.

To rebuild the fishery the following changes are proposed for Bastard trumpeter for recreational fishers these include:

- reduce bag limit from 5 fish to 2 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from 15 fish to 6
- Increase min length 38cm which is too low for sexual maturity to 42cm

For Commercial fishers the trip limit of 200kg to be reduced to 50kg in eastern region and 150kg western region.

### **GARFISH**

The current assessment classifies stocks as depleted statewide. The schooling behaviour of garfish has in part lead to them being an easy catch and stocks being depleted.

To rebuild the fishery the following changes are proposed for garfish for recreational fishers these include:

- reduce bag limit from 15 fish to 10 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from unlimited fish to 30 fish

For Commercial fishers the unlimited trip limit to be reduced to 300kg.

### **BLUE WARHOU**

The current assessment classifies stocks as depleted statewide due to over fishing. Stock has not bounced back from previous rule changes.

The following changes are proposed for Blue Warehou for recreational fishers these include:

- reduce bag limit from 10 fish to remain at 10 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from unlimited fish to 30 fish

For Commercial fishers the unlimited trip limit to be reduced to 300kg.

### **JACKASS MORWONG**

The current assessment classifies stocks as depleted.

The following changes are proposed for Jackass morwong for recreational fishers these include:

- reduce bag limit from 10 fish to remain at 10 fish per day
- reduce boat limit from unlimited fish to 30 fish

For Commercial fishers the unlimited trip limit to be reduced to 300kg.

### **GILLNETTING**

The process to phase out gillnetting began two years ago via rule changes and continues until 2030.

Changes include:

- restricting the depth of net setting
- reducing max. soak time from 6 hours to 2

### **CHARTER OPERATORS**

Tasmania is the only State where charter operations are not required to be registered or report their catch.

Propose to license these operators and request they supply monthly reports of their catch.

Proposal regarding southern bluefin, yellowfin and bigeye tuna to retain fish over the boat limit of 4 fish to allow one fish per patron to a max. of 6 fish per 5 patrons.

### **OTHER**

Proposing to allow commercial fishers take an increased number of sardines to develop sardine fisheries.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Sand Flathead**

Comments: Majority of fish caught here are sand flathead, not tiger flathead, there is a good amount of sand flathead on island. It is ok to extend the min. size length. Putting a bag limit on sand flathead here will make it hard here and upset a lot of people.

It was suggested putting a max. length limit on fish to protect larger fish and so breeding stock were not caught.

Response: The proposal is to increase a min. size length for many species is due to seeing more stunted small fish, which is a result of many years of overfishing.

Noted sand flathead does not travel very far.

Comments: The cost of going out to get a feed of fish is expensive so often you go out less and attempt to catch more. This is also weather dependant and to only go out and catch 5-10 fish it's not worth going out. Rather catch 20 fish and not go as often.

Response: Sand flathead so depleted it is closed in some states.

All fair and measured feedback is considered.

The sand flathead fishery in the Furneaux Group is healthiest around the state. People in south are finding it hard to even catch a flathead over 32cm. Hard to justify increasing bag limits in the south.

Yes, the 5 fish limit is limited for Flinders. However the more rules for different areas is confusing and cumbersome for some fishers. We need to think about what's fair and

reasonable. Please make a submission and state your case, even the suggestion to have a max. size length of 60cm. Sven had never heard of 60cm flathead.

IMAS have been operating since 2012 and did sampling over summer months looking at various flathead over the years, they have a good understanding of local areas and a good reference point for their data. They logged a 55cm Sand flathead. Look at the tail to decide which flathead, sand flathead form dark spot on the tail. Blue spot flathead has bigger dots on tail. There is a combined bag limit of 20 for all flathead species.

Blue spot flathead bag limit is 5 and rock flathead bag limit is 5 with the min size 25cm. Only one over 60cm for blue spot and rock

Comments: Local fishers are throwing sand flathead back on flinders when beach fishing catches the large ones. Recreational fishers are mainly catching sand flathead, whiting, salmon, calamari and garfish.

Question: Any thought on having a hatchery to restock the waters?

Response: NRE are looking at doing a report on the feasibility of doing this, as the situation is so bad in some areas of Tasmania. However, for supplementary fish to be affective you need correct conditions.

The depletion of Flathead has arisen as fishing pressure is so strong that as soon as fish reaches 32cm there is a 70% chance of the fish being caught and removed from stock.

A Hatchery would work.

In New South Wales (NSW) there is a hatchery for a few species and they do successfully release them into semi closed lagoons, they are not getting released into the open sea. This may be an option in the D'Entrecasteaux channel. The Main issue is genetically stunted stock. The transfer of stock from one area to another is needed to breed out genetic stunting. Salmon farming is not the issue for depleted stocks. It could be environmental change that stops breeding. Still many fish are heavily fished. There are the same problem in areas where there is no salmon farming.

Question: Have you set up closed areas sanctuary?

Response: No – as it means more intensified fishing in other areas and lack of legal size fish that the area has. The solution is to reduce fishing pressure.

Question: Can bycatch be brought in by commercial fishers and sold at lower price kilo and sold? This would allow Flinders Island people to have fresh fish, Government Policy appears to be taking away fishing licences that can deliver fish to Flinders Island.

Response: Unless there is a trip limit, a commercial fisherman can choose to sell whatever they chose too and whatever they catch. Making fisherman sell at a low price is not something NRE can do. Fisherman set price.

Comm fishers must record level of discard and provide reasons, so Fisheries know what is being taken. Where there is a trip limit and they are discarding NRE do not have a solution as yet. This is a Worldwide issue.

### **Calamari**

Question: I would like to know when the majority of calamari are caught?

Response: They are taken in November after the season opens. The concern from some is that the spawning season should be extended into September. The aim is to avoid

spawning areas being depleted, these big aggregations happen on the North Coast. Noting the 12-month life cycle of calamari.

Comments: Licensing to other people in Northern Tasmania will deplete our (Flinders) stocks as northern areas closed. Some fish die in nets in October. And come up dead. They are not being targeted when they are on eggs.

### **Garfish**

Question: Why impose a trip limit as all the garfish are dead within 5-10 mins and you end up throwing them back dead. They do not target garfish and have invented a net which is bigger to avoid catching young ones.

Comments: Garfish stocks are very high here. They will be a depleting resource if we fish on east coast. We target during day when you can get good size fish and no by-catch.

Response: There is not enough data in assess garfish species. In the South East there are hardly any due to dip net fishery.

Comments: Easy to net 5-600kg of garfish in one shot. So, a bag limit of 300kg is going to be difficult and will result in many being thrown back dead.

Response: No trend can be seen for garfish sampling yet.

Comments: Suggest that someone from Fisheries comes out and sees the fish being caught commercially when they go fishing. To show stocks are not depleted.

Comments: Garfish are not over fished on flinders, due to lack of numbers of fishers and weather. Very few amateurs target garfish. Commercial fishers do not often target garfish.

Response: Fisheries data comes from a variety of sources including commercial fishers. How much fish caught, catch and effort data e.g. kgs per hour? Data that shows this ratio is going up is good, kgs per hour going down is a poor outcome. There is a need for other programs to collect data to enable accurate predictions. IMAS has over 12 years sampling data in eight regions, looking at size and structure. More Catch and effort data needed along with more sampling data.

Comments: Changes to legal nets would help fish alive.

Question: Why such a steep drop state-wide in terms of bag limits?

Response: Reasonable comments are considered as part of the submission process, There are special management issues with compliance and making rules too complex. It is important to find a balance between complexity of rules and protection for fish. Noting the lack of fishing pressure on Flinders.

Question: In another 10 years' time will limits be dropping further?

Response: It is a reasonable question given the healthy fishery here. Making a submission to in terms of how separate Flinders is to rest of Tasmania and the issues you face here is suggested.

Question: In terms of changes to what you can catch and where you catch it. Do you look at sea grass and damage caused by shipping services, how it affects stocking waters? changes to bag limits will come bring greater fishing pressure from Victoria and Tasmania. Could you look at rules which meant fish caught on island must be sold here. The problem here is with poachers, people flying in and taking catch away. We get lots of fishers from the Northeast Coast filling their boats and leaving. Some are holiday makers.

Response: They are still rules governing what recreational fishers can do, it is more an issue of compliance.

Question: Mesh nets often brings up a lot dead fish and we are throwing them back in water dead. Are you looking at stopping this practice?.

Response: Gillnetting soak time has been shortened to reduce numbers of dead fish. Victoria increased bag limits for nets to stop as many throw backs.

Comments: Generous limits then it goes down to small limits will this keep happening? The bag limit reduction from 20 to 5 is a huge change.

Response: Fisheries needs resurrecting. We do not make rules, we propose rules, feedback from community and advisory bodies goes to Minister and then they make rules. Rules can get softened, however, some rules aren't strong enough to maintain or increase fisheries. Over time fisheries improve because time and money has been invested into collecting data. The proposals they are running with are proportionate to issues in Tasmania. We need to save fisheries around the state with the aim to have sustainable fisheries.

Charter Operators on the Island will be subject to changes as well.

People are urged to make submissions, keeping in mind the different health statuses of fisheries in different areas.

Make submissions about what you do support and tell why you don't support.

Question: How do people know their submissions are heard?

Response: NRE analyse all submissions, compile in a Draft report and make recommendations. All submissions are sent to Minister in a summary, with themes and responses to different proposals. Fishery advisers also assist the Minister in the decision-making process. Notes from meeting tonight are not a submission on your behalf. A handwritten letter or email is fine, as long as your submission is in writing. The more support there is for a reasonable view on the proposals, say 20-30 people from Flinders, this would give weight to the concerns and may lead to better outcomes. For example suggesting a max. length limit to sand flathead of 60cm in the Bass Strait Islands (BSI), as there is currently no max. limit proposed here as fisheries are healthy on BSI.

### **Genetic Stunting**

Flathead are five years of age before they are sexual mature at about 27cm on average. There is a natural variation in size of a five year old fish. Hence the increase in min. length to 32cm. Some fish are fast growing and reach 32cm before breeding, slow growing fish may reach maturity early at 23cm and get three breeding seasons in, so the

genetic small breeders change and over populate the breeding stock with small fish. Lack of food is not the problem. Healthy fisheries have bigger fish, and these bigger fish are the genetics we want in the fishery.

Comments: Commercial Fisherman Craig Wheatley would like IMAS to come here and check numbers on Flinders Island.

Response: Frances will be meeting with IMAS on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, so she will pass on the invitation.

Representatives were thanked and they mentioned the Council can do community submission.

**Meeting Closed: 6.57pm**



ANNEXURE - NRE PRESENTATION

# Overview of Proposed Changes to Scalefish Rules

April 2023

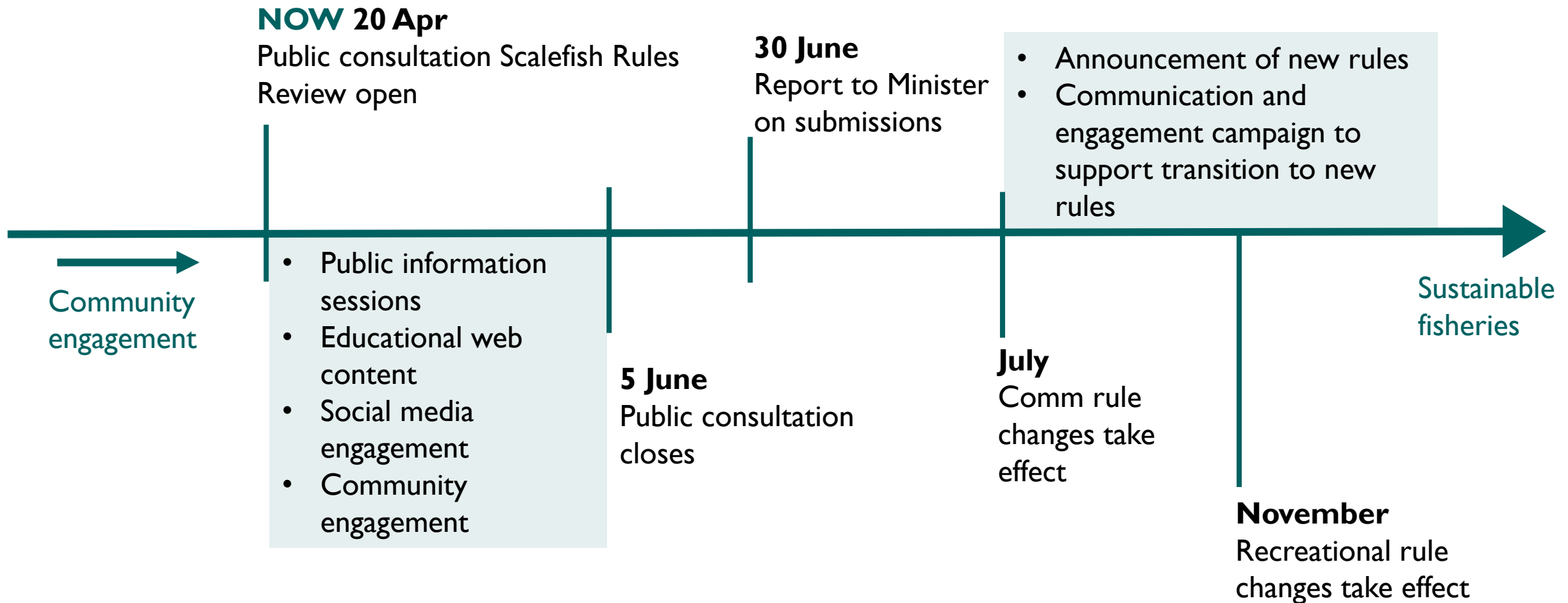
Wild Fisheries Management Branch  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



# Rules of engagement

- We encourage respectful speaking and listening
- Be considerate with your use of language
- Consider the length of your questions to allow time for others to speak – no second questions until everyone has had the opportunity to ask one
- No questions during the presentation
- While summarised notes will be recorded, we encourage people to make a formal submission

# Scalefish Rules Review Timeline



# Making change with the Scalefish Rules Review

Species specific rule changes to **reduce fishing pressure** on:



**Sand flathead**



**Calamari**



**Striped trumpeter**



**Bastard trumpeter**



**Garfish**



**Blue warehou**



**Jackass morwong**

Initiating **phase out** of recreational gillnetting

**Protecting** Maugean skate in Macquarie Harbour

**New** regulations for charter operators

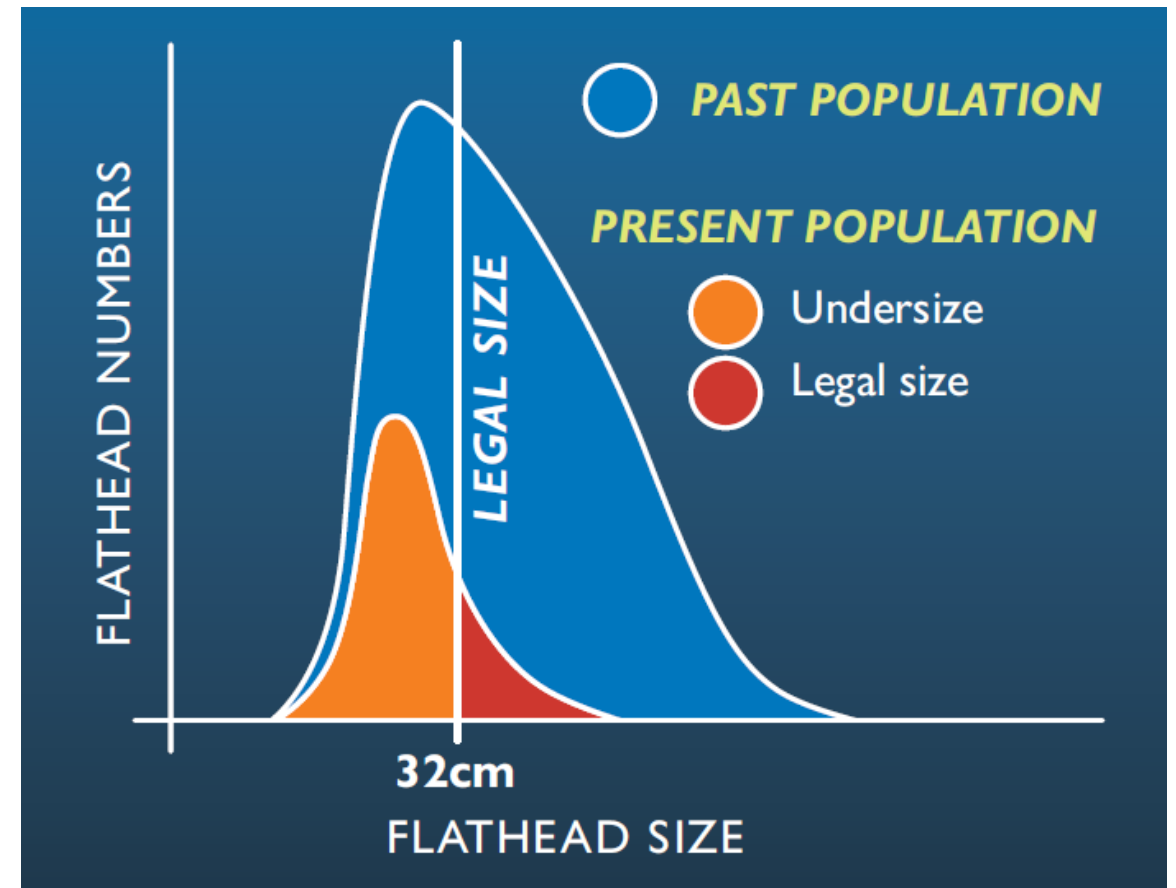
# Sand flathead



Each year **70%** of fish caught recreationally are sand flathead.

**98%** of sand flathead are caught by recreational fishers.

In 2022, the species was assessed as **depleted** for the first time, after being assessed as depleting for almost a decade.



# Sand flathead



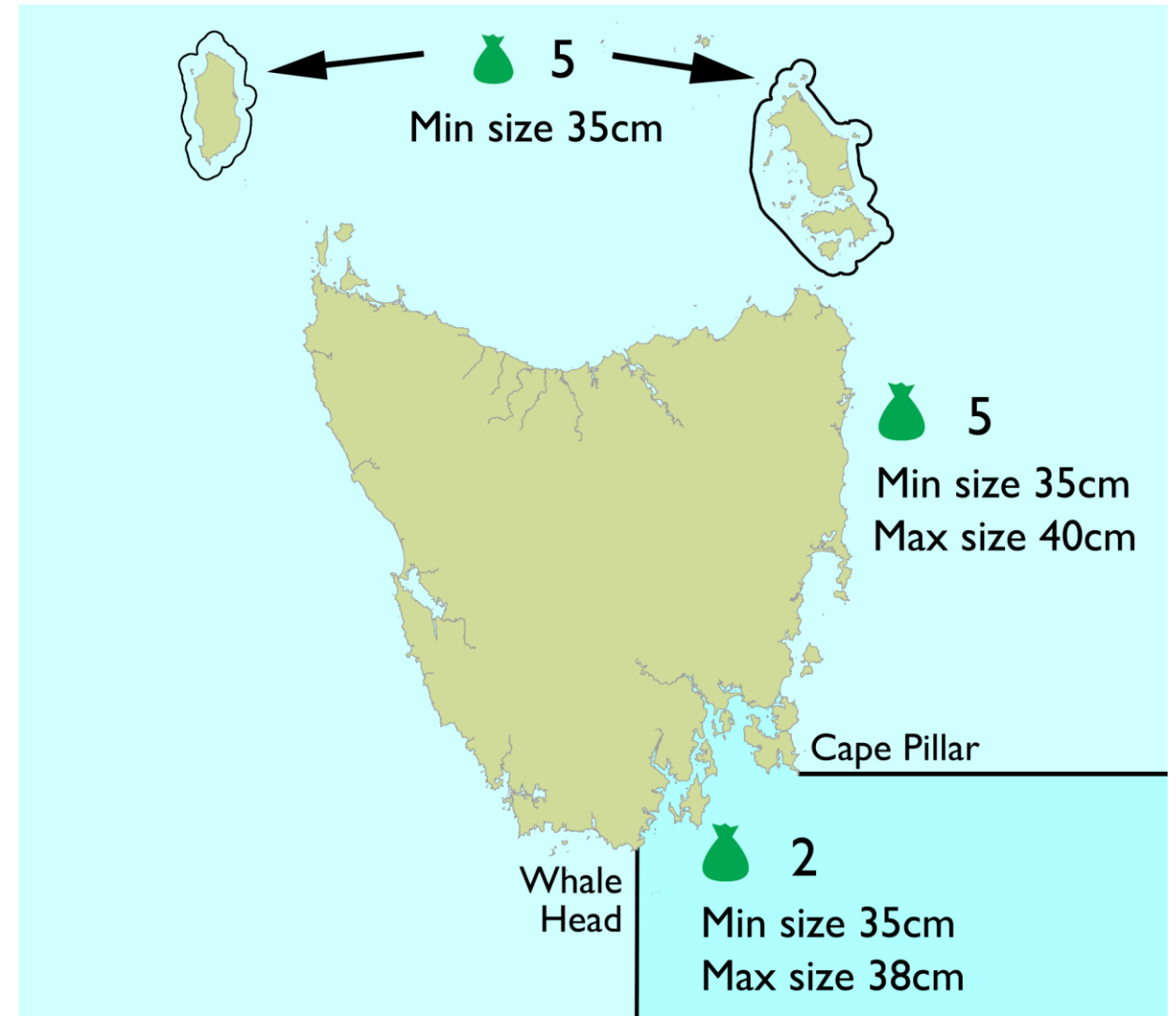
## Proposed size limits

Region	Current minimum size	Proposed minimum size	Proposed maximum size
Southern region (Cape Pillar west to Whale Head)	32 cm	35 cm	38 cm
Bass Strait islands	32 cm	35 cm	-
Other waters	32 cm	35 cm	40 cm

# Sand flathead

## Proposed recreational catch limits

Limits	Current	Southern region	Other waters
Bag limit	20 fish	2 fish	5 fish
Possession limit	30 fish	10 fish	10 fish





# Sand flathead



## Proposed commercial catch limits

Licence	Current	Proposed (per day)
For holders of a scalefish licence (excluding rock lobster)	No limit	25 kg
For holders of a rock lobster licence	30 fish (combined flathead limit)	10 kg (sand flathead) 20 kg (other flathead species)

## Proposed landing requirements for all flathead species

It is proposed that all flathead species be landed whole, or as fillets with heads and frames by both recreational and commercial fishers.

# Southern Calamari



Calamari has been assessed as **depleting** since 2017/18.

IMAS stock assessments indicate stock depletion in south-east and east coast waters, and stocks on the north coast are likely to follow a similar path if management changes are not made, due to increases in recreational and commercial fishing pressure and changing environmental conditions.

To return to a sustainable fishery, **fishing mortality must be reduced.**

# Southern Calamari

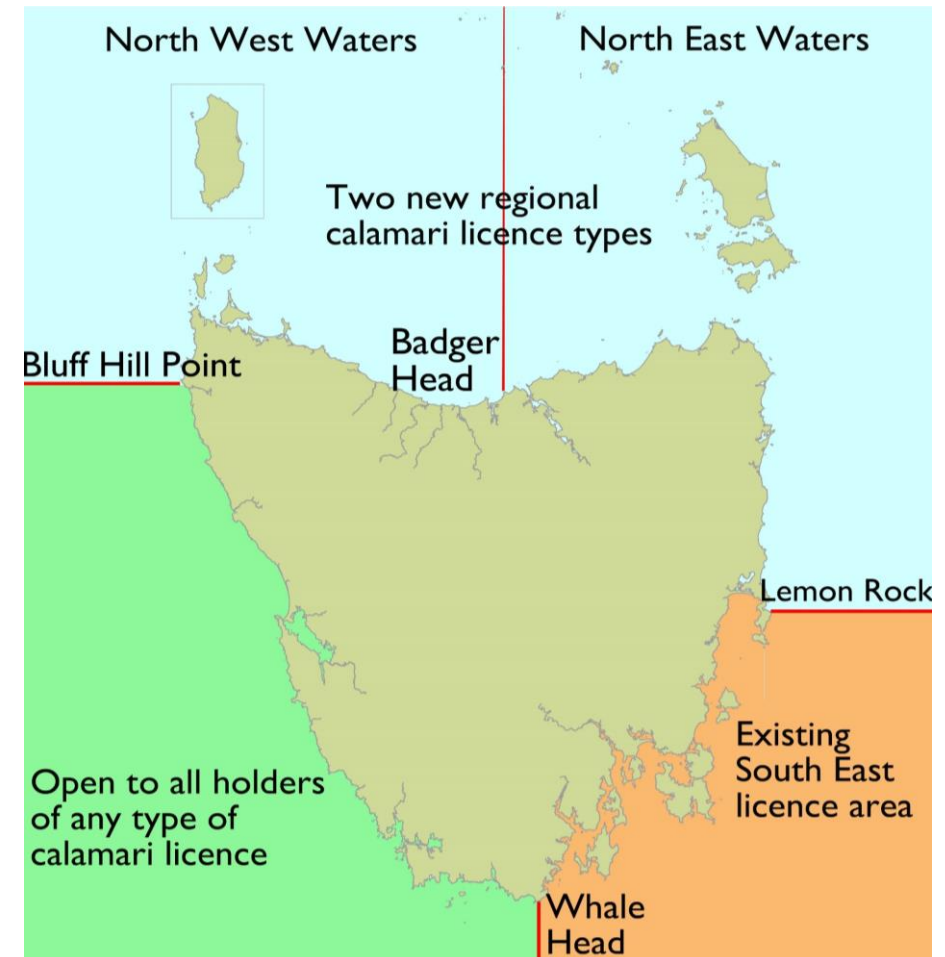


## Proposed recreational catch limits

Limits	Current	Proposed
Bag limit	10 fish	5 fish
Possession limit	20 fish	10 fish
Boat limits	No limit	15 fish

## Proposed regional calamari licence types for commercial fishers

By introducing a North East and North West licence, there will be fewer licences to target calamari



# Southern Calamari



## Proposed trip limits for fishers that do not hold a calamari licence

Licence	Current	Proposed
Holders of a scalefish licence who do not qualify for a calamari licence (excluding Furneaux Group waters)	No limit outside south east waters.  10 fish in a 24 hour period in south east waters	10 kg per day
Holders of a rock lobster licence	15 fish	10 kg per day
Extended daily limit in Furneaux Group waters for seine licence holders, including Danish seine, who do not qualify for a calamari licence	No limit	100 kg per day

# Striped trumpeter



Striped trumpeter has been a species of concern since the early 2000s. The current assessment classifies the stock as **depleted** and indicates fishing pressure is too high to support stock rebuilding, particularly on the south-east and east coasts.

Key concerns for the stock include the current size limit being set below estimated size at maturity for the species, and highly variable recruitment success from year to year.

## Proposed size limit

Increase minimum size limit from 55cm to 62cm

## Proposed recreational catch limits

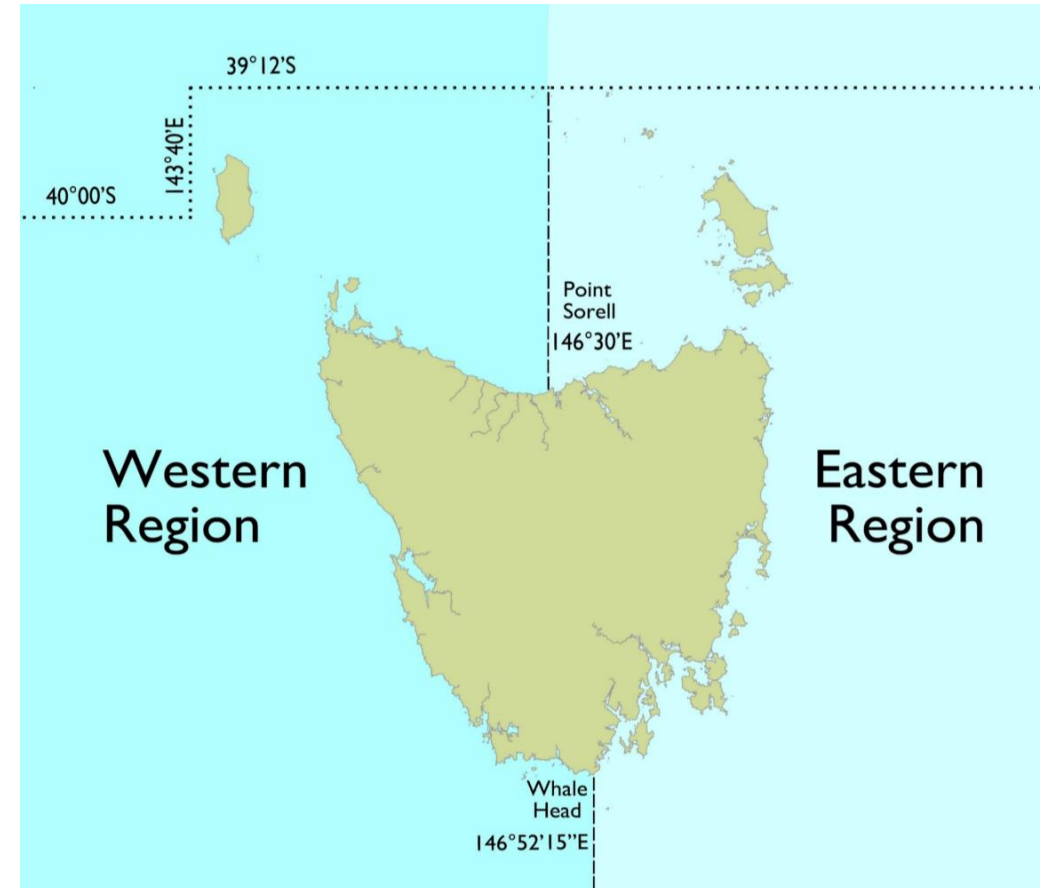
Limits	Current statewide	Western	Eastern
Bag limit	4 fish	4 fish	2 fish
Possession limit	8 fish	8 fish	8 fish
Boat limit	20 fish	12 fish	6 fish

# Striped trumpeter

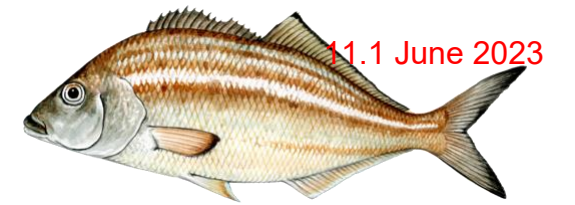


## Proposed regional commercial trip limits

	Current Statewide	Western	Eastern
For holders of a scalefish licence (including a rock lobster licence)	250 kg (part of combined limit with snapper and yellowtail kingfish)	150 kg species limit	50 kg species limit
For Commonwealth licence holders	150 kg	50 kg	50 kg



# Bastard trumpeter



11.1 June 2023

In recent decades, a declining bastard trumpeter stock has led to declining catches, particularly on the east and south-east coasts. The fishery is assessed as **depleted** and current low levels of fishing are still too high to support fishery recovery.

## Proposed size limit

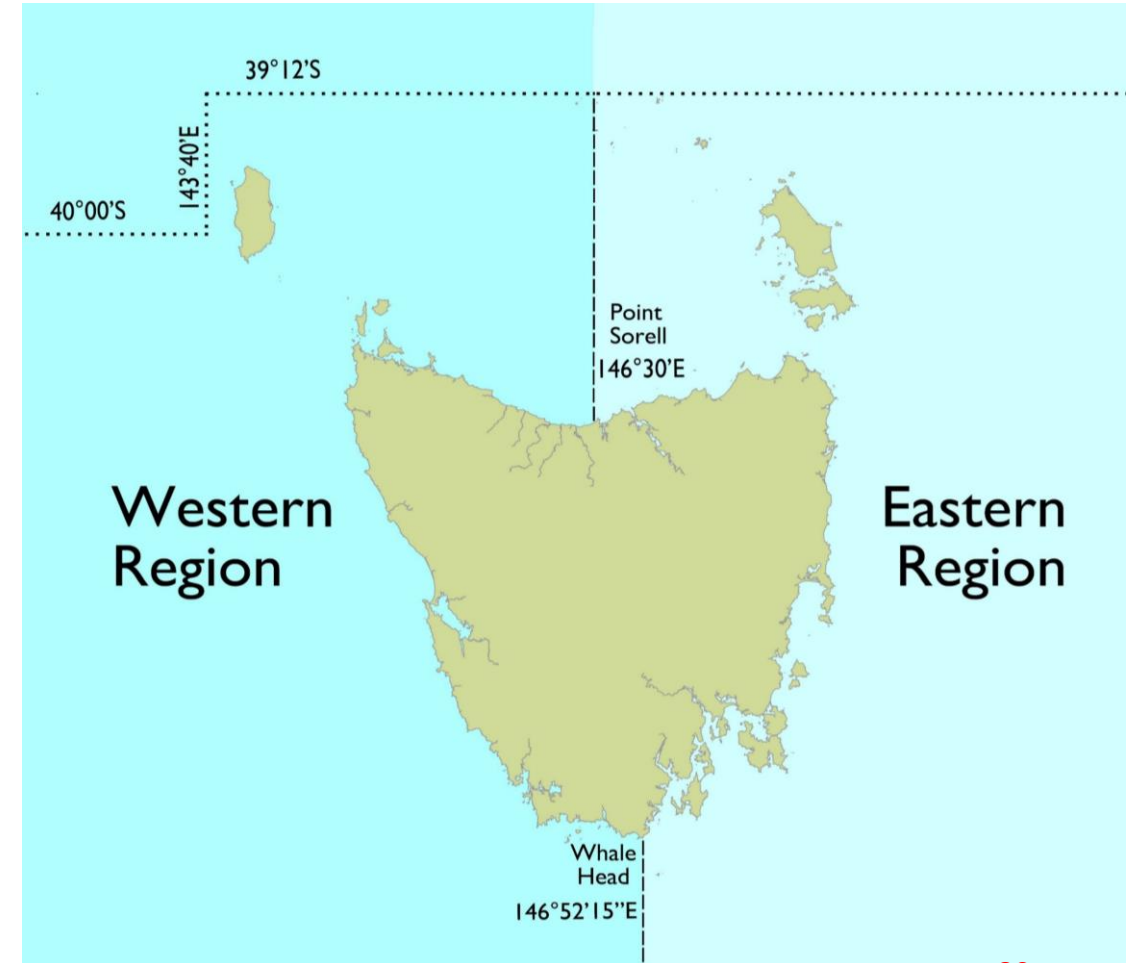
Increase the minimum size limit from 38cm to 42cm

## Proposed regional recreational catch limits

Limits	Current	Western	Eastern
Bag limit	5 fish	5 fish	2 fish
Possession limit	10 fish	10 fish	10 fish
Boat limits	No limit	15 fish	6 fish

## Proposed regional commercial catch limits

Licence	Current	Western	Eastern
Holder of a scalefish licence (excluding rock lobster)	200 kg	150 kg	50 kg
Holder of a rock lobster licence	30 fish	30 kg (statewide)	



# Southern Garfish



Southern garfish have been classified as **depleted** in the most recent IMAS stock assessment despite declining fishing effort in recent years.

## Proposed recreational catch limits

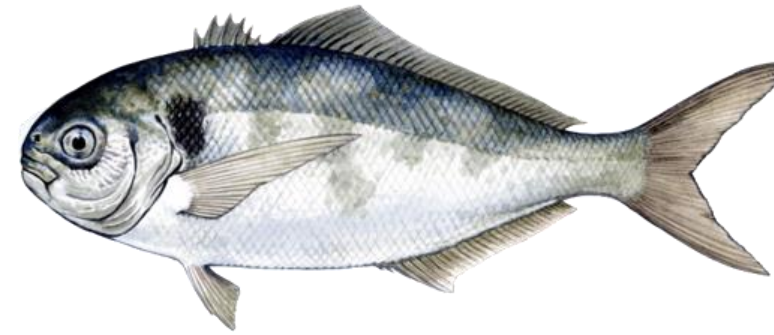
Limits	Current	Proposed
Bag limit	15 fish	10 fish
Possession limit	30 fish	20 fish
Boat limit	No limit	30 fish

## Proposed commercial catch limits

Licence	Current	Proposed
Holder of a scalefish licence (excluding a rock lobster licence)	No limit	300 kg
Holder of a rock lobster licence	20 kg	No change



# Blue warehou



Blue warehou is a Commonwealth-managed species that is sporadically abundant in Tasmanian waters.

The stock has been classified as **depleted** and subject to a stock rebuilding strategy since 2008. Despite this, there is no evidence of stock recovery.

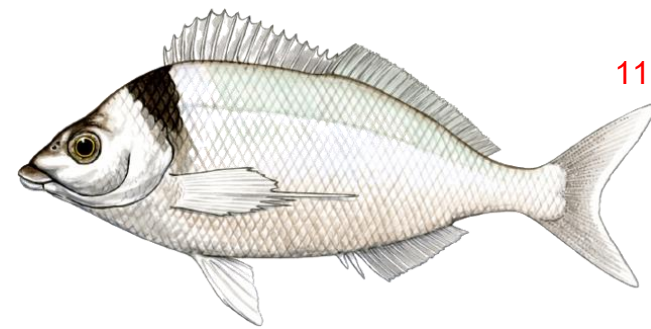
## Proposed recreational catch limits

Limits	Current	Proposed
Bag limit	10 fish	10 fish
Possession limit	20 fish	20 fish
Boat limit	No limit	30 fish

## Proposed commercial catch limits

Licence	Current	Proposed
Holders of a scalefish licence— excluding holders of a rock lobster licence	No limit	300 kg
Holders of a rock lobster licence	60 fish	80 kg

# Jackass morwong



Jackass morwong is a Commonwealth-managed species which has been assessed as **depleted**.

Historically, most of the catch has come from the Commonwealth fishery.

Tasmanian commercial catch and effort has been low for the past 15 years and the recreational sector is estimated to take about two-thirds of total state catch.

## Proposed recreational catch limits

Limits	Current	Proposed
Bag limit	10 fish	10 fish
Possession limit	20 fish	20 fish
Boat limit	No limit	30 fish

## Proposed commercial catch limits

Licence	Current	Proposed
Holders of a scalefish licence (except holders of a rock lobster licence)	No limit	300 kg
Holders of a rock lobster licence	60 fish	40 kg

# Recreational gillnetting

The Tasmanian Government has committed to **phasing out** recreational gillnetting by 2030.

The phase-out will be undertaken through a series of management changes between 2023 and 2030.

**Proposed changes** for 2023 are:

- Reducing the maximum soak time in State waters from **6 to 2 hours**
- Requiring recreational nets set in Shark Refuge Areas to be **attended by the licence holder** at all times
- **Prohibiting** the use of recreational gillnets in water greater than **20 metres in depth**
- **Prohibiting** the use of recreational gillnets in waters **further than 250 metres** from the high-water mark.



# Protecting Maugean skate in Macquarie Harbour

Maugean skate is one of the most endangered elasmobranchs in the world. It is now only found in Macquarie Harbour and has experienced a steep population decline.

In October 2022, NRE Tas implemented urgent interim management changes to reduce fishing related risks to Maugean skates in Macquarie Harbour. The proposed rules aim to formalise these management changes in the Scalefish Rules.

Management	Recreational	Commercial
Area closures	Formalisation of extended closed areas in <a href="#">Macquarie Harbour Internal Waters</a>	Commercial gillnetting will be prohibited within closed areas in <a href="#">Macquarie Harbour Internal Waters</a>
Soak times	Recreational fishers will be restricted to a maximum soak time of 2 hours, from sunrise to 2 hours after sunset	Endorsed commercial fishers will be restricted to a maximum soak time of 2 hours, from 1 hour after sunrise to 1 hour before sunset
Night netting	No night netting for recreational fishers	Endorsed commercial fishers will be allowed to set a gillnet from 1 hour before sunset to 1 hour after sunrise
Summer closure	Does not apply	Macquarie Harbour is closed to commercial gillnetting from 15 November to 14 April



# Proposed rules for the charter fishery

There is currently no requirement to register a charter fishing operation or to report catch for the charter fishing sector.

Therefore, key information including passenger numbers and catch details are poorly understood.

## Proposed changes

1. Introduce a **register** for charter boats and require all charter fishing businesses to register their operation with the Secretary of NRE Tas
2. Require charter fishing operators to submit **monthly catch records**
3. Allow charter fishing operators to **retain some tuna species over the boat limit** up to a maximum limit of 6 fish for 5 or more patrons

# Other proposed changes

## **Allowing changes to catch limits for depleted and depleting species by public notice**

To facilitate responsive fisheries management, we propose the ability to introduce or amend catch limits and/or size limits for depleting and depleted species, by published notice

## **Prohibiting spearing of some fish species**

It is proposed to stop the spearing of banded morwong, sand flathead, bastard trumpeter, and striped trumpeter given their stock vulnerability and susceptibility to spearing.

## **Sardine fishery**

We propose to allow the Secretary to authorise a licence to take more than 10 kilograms of sardine, under certain conditions and with the appropriate access fee.

THANK YOU