

The Tasmanian marine environment is home to a range of invasive marine species, some with the potential to cause significant damage to the marine environment. Understanding the status and distribution of introduced species helps us plan biosecurity measures to prevent further spread and recognise when new incursions occur.

How You Can Help

1. Report it

Every person has a role to play in protecting Tasmania's marine environment from new and harmful pests. So if you see something unusual, report it!

Species we want to keep out of Tasmania

The following species aren't currently found in Tasmania, and it is a high priority to keep them out of our waters. So, if you spot them, report them immediately.



Chinese Mitten Crab



Black-striped false mussel



New Zealand green-lipped mussel



Harris' mud crab

How to report

Report sightings of invasive species to Biosecurity Tasmania.

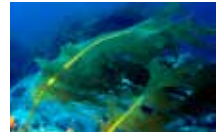
biosecurity.tasmania@nre.tas.gov.au
03 6165 3777

Species we want to limit the spread of

The species below already occur in some parts of Tasmania, but we want to reduce their spread to other areas.



Northern Pacific seastar



Japanese kelp



European green crab



Soft-shelled clam



Pacific oyster

2. Don't spread it

Pests and diseases, including Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis, can be spread by boats, bait, dive gear and fishing gear. Some pests can live for days on boats, in bilge water or on your gear.

Do your part:

- Don't move water, fish, or fish parts (including shells, offal or bait) between locations.
- **CHECK, CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY all boating, fishing and diving gear after every trip.**

Protected Species

The following species are protected and must not be taken for any reason:

Elephant snail



Limpet



Handfish



Threefin blenny

Pipehorse



Pipefish

Seadragon

Maugean skate



Seahorse



Great white shark



Basking, grey nurse, megamouth and whale sharks are also protected.

If you encounter or accidentally catch a protected species, you must return the animal to where you found it regardless of whether it is alive or dead. Aboriginal fishers may take and possess limpets and elephant snails.

Threatened Species

A number of threatened marine species are protected under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Many of these are also protected nationally under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

A full list can be found at nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/threatened-species-and-communities.

Threatened species cannot be taken without a permit for any reason. If you encounter or accidentally catch a threatened species whilst fishing, return it to the water with as little damage as possible.

If it is injured or entangled in fishing gear, please contact NRE Tas Threatened Species Section for advice or to report dead threatened species (threatenedspecies.enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au).

If seals, birds, whales or dolphins are involved, contact the Marine Conservation Program on **0427 942 537**.

Maugean Skate Alert

The Maugean skate is only found in Macquarie Harbour and its numbers are dangerously low. It is clearly identifiable by the elongated shape of the snout. Recreational gillnetting has been prohibited in Macquarie Harbour to protect the skate as it is especially vulnerable to being caught in gillnets. All skates must be returned to the water as soon as possible without harm.

Shellfish

Recreationally harvested wild shellfish

There is always some risk to your health from eating wild shellfish that you have collected. Do not take shellfish from:

- where boats discharge;
- marinas;
- near sewerage, industrial or stormwater outfalls;
- near septic tanks;
- places affected by heavy rainfall; or
- the Derwent and Tamar Estuaries.

Tasmania is periodically affected by algal blooms. 'Do Not Eat Wild Shellfish' warning signs are displayed at popular boat ramps and jetties along Tasmania's northeast, east and southeast coastlines when algal blooms are present.

Follow any Public Health Alerts about collecting and eating wild shellfish at www.health.tas.gov.au/news/health-alerts/wild-shellfish-health-alerts or phone the Department of Health hotline on **1800 671 738**.



Derwent or Tamar Estuaries

Do not consume shellfish from the Derwent or Tamar Estuaries including Ralphs Bay as they contain high levels of heavy metals – see derwentestuary.org.au/fishing-and-seafood-safety.



Scalefish

Derwent Estuary

- Heavy metal contamination in the Derwent Estuary affects the type and amount of seafood caught in the area that you should eat.
- The Director of Public Health advises people not to eat bream caught in the Derwent Estuary and Browns River.
- Limit meals of Derwent caught scalefish to no more than two per week or one meal per week for pregnant and breastfeeding women, women planning to become pregnant and children aged 6 years and younger.
- More information at derwentestuary.org.au/fishing-and-seafood-safety

Eating Seafood Safely

Other areas

- For areas outside the Derwent Estuary, fish can be eaten as part of a balanced diet in line with Food Standards Australia New Zealand advice - see www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/chemicals/mercury.



Do not eat bream from the Derwent



No more than two meals per week of Derwent-caught scalefish

Biotxin Information

Toxic algal blooms

Some species of naturally occurring algae that produce toxins have been present in eastern and southern Tasmanian waters over the past few years.

These algae can produce paralytic shellfish toxins (PSTs) that accumulate in shellfish feeding on the algae. Humans can ingest these toxins when eating shellfish such as oysters, mussels, scallops and clams.

Abalone, scallop roes and the intestines and livers of rock lobster can also be affected when toxic algal blooms are present.

Rock lobster fishery

Rock lobster feed on shellfish and can become contaminated with PSTs. Toxins build up in specific organs (rarely in the flesh) and can be dangerous to humans when eaten. When biotoxin levels are above the prescribed minimum limit, Public Health alerts may advise against taking and eating fish or the affected zones may be closed to fishing.

Stay informed

Web:

fishing.tas.gov.au/biotoxin-events

Facebook:

facebook.com/FisheriesTasmania

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/fisheriestas

Public health information on collecting and eating wild shellfish:

www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/food-safety/food-safety-consumers/wild-shellfish

BE BOATWISE

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- Log your trip - let your emergency contact know when you depart and when you return
- Save your fishing spots
- Get notified of nearby boating hazards.

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Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

Tasmanian Wild Fisheries Assessments

IMAS fisheries research now has a digital home, with the launch of a new website reporting the health of Tasmania's fish stocks and the research used to underpin fisheries management decisions. Head to tasfisheriesresearch.org

Tassie Fish Frame Collection Program



IMAS is asking recreational anglers to donate the frames (head, skeleton and guts) of legal-size Yellowtail Kingfish, King George Whiting, Pink Snapper and Striped Trumpeter. Our researchers will use the frames to collect important information on the age, growth and reproduction of these species in Tasmanian waters.

Details: bit.ly/fish-frame

Have you caught a tagged fish?

IMAS has tagging programs underway for abalone, rock lobster, flathead, trumpeter, banded morwong and shark. Please record the tag number, fish species, size and sex (for lobsters), and date and location of catch.

In addition, every reported **sand flathead** and **rock lobster** tag goes

into our regular Tag Lottery draw for the chance to win some great prizes throughout the year.



Report your tagged catch to **0409 277 140** or email fish.tag@utas.edu.au

Redmap



Spot, log and map sightings of marine species that are uncommon in Tasmanian seas at redmap.org.au

Study Science of Fishing at IMAS

Science of Fishing is for everyone.

From people wanting to develop their skills and knowledge in fishing, to those looking to enhance their recreational fishing experience, to those looking to contribute to a sustainable fishery.

After completing Science of Fishing you will be able to identify a range of Australian fish species, describe their characteristics and understand their behaviour within the marine environment.

Improve your fishing experience and gain a greater understanding of how to fish safely and responsibly for the future.

Visit utas.edu.au/study/sustainable-living to enroll or contact us at **IMAS.Science.of.Fishing@utas.edu.au** for more information.