

# RecFAC 75 | MINUTES

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**Meeting date: Thursday 5 August 2021**

Location: Tail Race Centre, Launceston

**Attendance:**

Chair: Max Kitchell

Recreational Fisher Members:

Stephen Scott  
Richard Sherriff  
Martin Wells  
Nepelle Crane

Organisation Members:

Sean Tracey	IMAS
Jane Gallichan	TARFish
Ben Cunningham, Eileen Langford	Tasmania Police
Rod Pearn	Recreational Fisheries (DPIPWE)

Guests/ Presenters:

Sven Frijlink	Recreational Fisheries (DPIPWE)
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Apologies:

Jon Bryan, Naomi Balon, Dianne Andoni, Sunny Jang, Adrian Hales

**Meeting Open:** 9:55 am

## AGENDA TOPICS

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### Meeting Formalities

- Adoption of Agenda

The Chair reordered the draft agenda to maximise the time for the Recreational Fishing Strategy (the Strategy).

The agenda also provided a break in the meeting for members to attend the Minister's launch of the *Better Grants Program* at the nearby Tail Race Jetty. The Minister joined RecFAC over lunch.

- Update Register of Interests

The TARFish member advised an update to her interests.

- Minister's decisions

The Northern Calamari spawning season closure was approved, noting that the area and dates remain the same as last year.

A decision on the rock lobster season dates has not been received. The Department's recommendation is for no changes to the season structure, which was supported by RecFAC with the exception that RecFAC requested a two-weekend buffer for the East Coast.

- Action Items from previous meeting

The Chair met with the Minister to express RecFAC's frustration that they do not feel like their advice to review the east coast rock lobster catch share in the recreational sectors favour is being heard.

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## Recreational Strategy Advice

Recreational Fisheries staff provided an overview of the main stages in the development of the draft Strategy and a summary of the general themes from the public meetings and written submissions.

### *Consideration of Submissions*

The objective of the exercise was to deliver a consensus driven list of recommendations by RecFAC following the consideration of public submissions to the draft Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy. It was noted that submissions and a preliminary summary working report were provided to members the weekend before the meeting. In addition, to guide discussions, several days prior to the meeting, the Chair requested members to come to the meeting with 3-4 short list of suggestions which could improve the Strategy.

At the meeting each member presented their short-listed suggestions. Emailed suggestions from Dianne Andoni and Adrian Hales who could not attend the meeting were also tabled. All topics were written on large self-stick wall pads and considered. Overall, there was a considerable degree of overlap between key issues and the nature of suggestions.

Suggestions were collated and draft recommendations made at the meeting. These were refined in conjunction with the Chair and emailed to members for review and further comment after the meeting. The finalised recommended changes to the draft Strategy are:

1. Acknowledge that recreational fisheries management operates within a broader fisheries management context. This is particularly important in relation to stock assessment, harvest strategies and resource sharing agreements.
2. Harvest strategies should consider and be guided by resource sharing policy.
3. Develop an overarching resource sharing policy framework to guide harvest plans and other management instruments.
4. Name the emerging (and potentially other) key recreational species with reference to resource sharing policy and harvest plans.
5. Develop a framework to determine candidate species for harvest plans.
6. Implement additional recreational only areas with a focus on sheltered and/or popular recreational fishing areas. If possible, develop synergies with broader marine spatial management plans and processes including the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.
7. Assess options to protect and rehabilitate marine habitats with a key focus on sensitive fisheries habitats such as nursery areas.
8. Address legislative barriers impeding potential projects to protect or rehabilitate stocks and habitats, including the involvement of recreational fishers or other volunteer stewards. This may include assessing provisions within the LMRMA
9. Review the LMRMA, State Coastal Policy and other relevant policies or legislation pursuant to developing an integrated marine and fisheries management policy or management framework (could link to recommendation #6)
10. The wording of some actions needs to be sharper, more action-oriented and less process-driven. (eg rather than "consider", "assess the feasibility of" etc)
11. Definitions are needed for terms like sustainability. The preferred state of stocks needs to be incorporated in Outcome 5. Could use "abundance" in conjunction with "sustainability". For example, the Principles could be worded along the lines: "fisheries are managed at sustainable levels where fisheries are abundant, and optimize recreational fishing

conservatively according to the best information to promote abundant stocks and minimise impacts to non-target species and marine habitats”.

12. Recreational fisheries data needs to be of sufficient reliability and resolution (spatial and temporal), noting the declining reliance on commercial fishing data for some finfish species.
13. Improve coordination and targeting of messaging of fisheries information including:
  - a. a communications strategy for young people (e.g. school children)
  - b. additional signage at key fishing locations
  - c. publishing the rationale of proposed management changes and modelled impacts – both biological and social/economic
14. Simplify compliance instruments and investigate how the LMRMA could provide for this
15. Reduce the frequency of fisheries management changes
16. Phase out recreational gillnet use except for targeting Atlantic salmon escapees in specific areas and/or following notifiable outbreaks
17. All initiatives with the potential to increase fisher participation should be considered in view of potential resource impacts

Action item	Person responsible	When
1. Draft final RecFAC recommendations on the draft Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy for final endorsement by the Committee.	Sven/Chair	6 August 2021

### Research topics for RecRAG

RecFAC discussed research topics from previously drafted lists as well as those raised through the development of the Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy. The following topics were prioritised to feed into the Research Assessment Group meeting (RAG) on 6 August:

- More frequent and spatially refined data to support fisheries. This includes developing performance measures and targets so they can be integrated into management plans.
- Social and economic assessment and understanding demographics of recreational fishing in Tasmania
- Understanding impacts of seals and depredation of key fish species – particularly tuna and striped trumpeter.
- Feasibility of re-seeding lobster puerulus from marine farm infrastructure.

The successful funding of previous research priorities, such as sand flathead monitoring, rock lobster monitoring and individual season limits, national socio-economic project were noted. In addition, the previous RecFAC recommendation to undertake a bycatch monitoring project of the Tasmanian Danish Seine fishery

#### Rock Lobster

Drafting instructions have been provided for the rule to facilitate group sharing of rock lobster by licenced rock lobster fishers, Size Limit Zones, Group Fishing

### Fishery Management Update

DPIPWE are progressing Rock Lobster Size Limit Zones, Group Fishing (licenced rock lobster pot fishers on a boat). Consultation will commence around late September/October.

An update on the rock lobster recreational catch monitoring and individual season limit project will be made to RecFAC early September. DPIPWE is considering whether to modify the app and undertake a voluntary trial for next year, and continuously improve the app.

Options for the commercial calamari fishery licence arrangements are being developed. For the recreational fishery; bag limits, boat limits and seasons are being considered. The Department notes the challenge to get support from the recreational sector, however, emphasises that both the recreational and commercial catch is significant and both sectors have a role in returning the fishery to sustainability.

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**Next Meeting:**

Mid- September

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**Meeting Closed: 3:35 pm**

## UPDATED ACTION ITEMS

### SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

	Action	Who	When /Status
1	Finalise RecFAC advice for the Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy and provide to the Steering Committee	Sven Frijlink	By 6 August
2	Discuss improvements to the Fishwatch phone service	RecFAC	Future Meeting
3	Abalone – update on size limits etc	DPIPWE	Future Meeting

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS LIST

Items Identified and Recommended for Development and Consultation		
Item	When Raised	Comments Priority/Status
Scalefish Appropriate age for using certain fishing gear (recreational gillnetting and setlines).	RecFAC 62	Feed into Scalefish review >2020
Scalefish DPIPWE prepare a paper outlining the key issues and management options that reduce the impact of recreational gillnets. Include Attendance provisions or reduced maximum soak times (such as 2 Hrs) for recreational gillnets	RecFAC 64	Feed into Scalefish review >2020
<b>Bastard Trumpeter</b> - investigate whether further management action is required to address the status changed from “transitional depleting” to “overfished”.	RecFAC 57	
Inshore shellfish Consider potential overfishing of inshore invertebrate. Review catch limits Closed areas in intertidal zone.	RecFAC 52	Preliminary approval from Minister to draft papers etc.
Rock Lobster Western Region – Boat Limit - Suggested, but not fully discussed that boat limits could be further limited in Western Region – 25 still too high? Also mentioned individual catch limits (bl of 5/ pl of 10 or special licence 15) – are they too high. Raised by Stafford. Are they related to compliance issues, marketing, inshore depletion/ resource sharing issues? Seek additional info from Stafford, Marine Police.	RecFAC56 &57	Opportunistic if there are MP amendments. Remove from list Suggest Issues will be discussed in RL policy document brief etc.

Rock Lobster Harvest Strategy and Policy Needed	RecFAC65	
<b>Rock Lobster Compliance Review Topics</b> - Tighten the rule relating to Eastern Region possession limit near the coastal strip to enhance compliance. Eg. Can not possess > 2 within 100 metres of EC waters unless the fisher can establish they were on a multiple day fishing trip. DPIPWE and Marine Police to develop background need and work up proposal if deemed necessary.	RecFAC56	Remove from list Feed into rock lobster compliance review
<b>Rock Lobster – Special Licence Rock Lobster-</b> The Committee recommended to t the fishing licence (special rock lobster) be removed consultation will be undertaken in future reviews.	RecFAC65	March 2019 - Minister supported consultation in 2020/2021 review
Consider compliance risks of allowing recreational rock lobster fishing in the Northern Bass Strait area or lobster being landed in Victoria.  Mandatory VMS for the commercial rock lobster fishery should be considered given the extent of spatial management and number of boundary lines.	RecFAC 65	Feed into rock lobster compliance review  RecFAC recommended mandatory VMS at Meeting 69.
Scallops D'Entrecasteaux Channel Recreational Scallop Fishery: management strategy and decision rule criteria  Develop policy for area management. Review status of key inshore areas to be considered as non-commercial areas (i.e for explicit access of recreational and indigenous fishers) Key areas include: D'entrecasteaux Channel, Norfolk Bay, Mercury Passage, Great Oyster Bay which have not been subject to any commercial activity for many years.	RecFAC56  RecFAC 69	By early 2021.
<b>Abalone</b> Catch Limits, what is a reasonable bag and possession limit, the introduction of a boat limit and a minimum age for a recreational abalone licence, compliance issues.	RecFAC 61	Implemented November 2019.

## RESEARCH NEEDS AND IDEAS

Topic, Need etc	
Topic	When Raised
RecFAC indicate that increased monitoring of sand flathead is a priority. The urgency for Developing a cost-effective monitoring regime and stock assessment for Sand Flathead is due to transiting depleting stock status indicated recent scalefish fishery assessments and the fact that	RecFAC65

sand flathead is the back bone of recreational fishing in Tasmania as it constitutes >60% of all recreational fish caught in Tasmania.	Project application is awaiting FRDC funding
Striped Trumpeter – Increased sampling or collection of frames required so this species can be adequately assessed. i.e Not Undefined.	RecFAC 57
Charter Boat Fishery Logbook collection and analysis	RecFAC 60, RecFAC62