

Outcomes of the 2009 Scalefish Review

Commercial rule changes






New rules resulting from the scalefish fishery review apply from 1 November 2009.




Gillnets: Commercial gillnets may only be set for a maximum of 6 hours in all State waters including Shark Refuge Areas. Exceptions include during night netting for fishers endorsed to take scalefish in Macquarie Harbour and fishers endorsed for unattended night netting on the north coast.

Port Sorell and Ansons Bay: These areas are now closed to commercial scalefishing with the exception of two commercial fishers holding an endorsement for Port Sorell until they retire from the fishery.

Possession limits: There have been changes in commercial trip limits for the following species:

-  *Bastard trumpeter:* a trip limit of 200 kg has been introduced.
-  *Elephantfish:* an increase in the trip limit of 5 bodies to 100 kilograms of elephantfish in State waters has been introduced. The trip limit of 5 elephantfish still applies in Shark Refuge Areas.
-  *Southern calamari:* the possession limit for rock lobster licence holders remains at 15 except in southeast waters where trip limit of 10 applies in a 24 hour period.

Size limits: There have been changes to the minimum size limits of the following species:

-  *Striped trumpeter:* the minimum size limit for striped trumpeter increased to 500 mm.
-  *Bastard trumpeter:* the minimum size limit for bastard trumpeter increased to 380 mm.
-  *Snapper:* a new minimum size limit of 300 mm has been introduced for snapper.

Striped Trumpeter: In addition to size and possession limit changes, striped trumpeter must now be landed whole with head and tail attached or as two fillets with the frames (including head and tail). The seasonal closure implemented in 2009 will also occur in 2010, from 1 September to 31 October.

Shark finning: A new rule has been introduced that bans the removal of dorsal, pectoral and caudal (tail) fins from shark. There is an exception that allows for the tip of the caudal fin to be removed to assist in bleeding the carcass. This rule brings Tasmanian legislation in line with Commonwealth shark finning legislation.

Dinghies: Rules permitting the use of dinghies without the parent vessel have been removed as these were deemed to be in contradiction with Marine and Safety Tasmania by-laws.

Sardines and anchovies: There will be no changes to the limits associated with small pelagic species including Australian anchovies and Australian sardines (pilchards). Concerns regarding possible food chain effects and stock sustainability were raised during consultation. It is unlikely that the management of these species will change without the availability of further biological information.

For information about changes relating to the recreational fishery, please refer to the new Recreational Sea Fishing Guide 2009/10, available at Service Tasmania, or contact the Department.