

Outcomes of the 2009 Scalefish Review

Future Directions for the Recreational Fishery



In addition to rule changes, the Minister has directed the Department to investigate the following issues in the recreational fishery prior to the next Scalefish Review.

Number of hooks for set lines

The number of hooks currently allowed (30) for set lines may see more fish taken than is permitted by the on water possession limits. Potentially, excess fish may be dumped, wasted or even illegally retained. There is particular concern for the stock status of striped trumpeter and wastage of species such as blue eye trevalla.

Over the next few years, information on the use of set lines will be reviewed and appropriate measures considered to tailor the number of set line hooks used to the existing bag limits.

Net free areas

Reducing the length of time gillnets are set, checking for fish regularly and attending nets is extremely important to minimise wildlife interactions and the taking of non-target species.

Future policy directions will consider possible new no netting areas to protect bastard trumpeter to address concerns about the stock status of this species.

Wildlife interactions

A risk management approach to reduce wildlife interactions, particularly for seabirds is warranted. Considerations will include targeted education and awareness campaigns and legislative measures including further netting restrictions in specified areas.

Future educational programs will provide information on appropriate practices to use when setting and retrieving fishing gear and methods for minimising interactions with wildlife.

Check the 2009-10 Recreational Sea Fishing Guide for all information about Tasmanian recreational fishing rules as at 1 November 2009 including changes resulting from the Scalefish Review. These changes include new size and possession limits, licensing and netting requirements. The guides, as well as rulers and stickers are available at Service Tasmania and most bait and tackle shops.

2009-10 recreational sea fishing licences are available from all Service Tasmania shops and on the internet at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/licence