

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (*TARFish*)

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15 May 2006

Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell
Minister for the Environment & Heritage
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Marine Protected Areas

The Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc (known as TARFish) writes to express its extreme concern over the establishment of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around Tasmania, and in particular, to propose an amendment to the boundaries around the Freycinet MPA.

TARFish is the independent peak body representing recreational fishing in Tasmania. With limited resources, TARFish strives to participate actively and constructively in all matters that impact upon recreational fishing in this State.

The establishment of these MPAs has fallen far short of 'due process' and genuine consultation. Your press release on 5 May 2006 stated that the MPA network was "the culmination of extensive discussions with stakeholders...". As a major stakeholder, TARFish is astonished by the fact that it has NOT been invited to participate in this process, despite our on-going requests for such involvement. We understand that, alarmingly, our national body, Recfish Australia, was also excluded from the consultative process.

These MPAs will have a very significant effect on recreational fishing in the South-East of Australia, and especially in Tasmania. With almost 30 percent of Tasmanians participating in recreational fishing, this translates into 125,000 Tasmanians who have had no voice in this completely bureaucratic decision.

Your press release also states that these MPAs will have "minimal impact upon industry". TARFish struggles to comprehend the basis on which this statement is made. Recreational fishing is a significant contributor to the economy: a 2000-01 national survey showed recreational fishing as a \$52 million industry in Tasmania alone.

We write, in particular, to stress urgently the need to amend the boundaries around the Freycinet MPA, an area which is a major recreational fishing locality. The attached map sketches the boundaries as proposed by TARFish members. Members consider that this proposal will satisfy all parties, yet still represents a

major compromise by recreational fishers. TARFish members are more than happy to discuss these details with you at your convenience.

The recreational fishers of Tasmania are highly aware of the need for conservation of fish stock and habitat, and support sound proposals which are developed with the genuine participation and agreement of all stakeholders and which respect the interests and needs of each.

I enclose a pamphlet introducing the Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing, its role and its objectives. (Some of our contact details are deleted as we undergo a restructure.)

Repeating our objective stated in earlier correspondence to government, as the peak body representing the interests of the recreational fishing sector in Tasmania, TARFish looks forwards to playing an active and integral role in deciding the establishment, location and management conditions of any Marine Protected Areas within Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Anne M Purtil
Executive Officer

Copied to Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry & Conservation