



12 September 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Protecting our fishery for all Tasmanians

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government is focused on the long-term viability of our valuable fisheries for the benefit of all Tasmanians, which is why we are striking the right balance between providing access for fishers and ensuring we have fish for the future.

Recreational fishing and boating is an important way of life for over 100,000 Tasmanians and our seafood industries support small businesses and jobs right across our coastal communities.

Tasmania's first Recreational Sea Fisheries Strategy will be developed with fishers to guide the future of our recreational sea fishing sector to meet the needs of all Tasmanians, whilst maintaining healthy fish populations.

It will include resource access and sustainability, modernising and improving compliance measures to fairly manage access for all Tasmanians and tourists, social and economic values, education and awareness, and research priorities to guide future policy.

Our fisheries are managed responsibly with strict catch controls and rules using world-class fisheries research from IMAS and advice from Fisheries Advisory Committees and stakeholders.

Key management measures for rock lobster this season include:

- No changes to the recreational rock lobster season or bag limits on Tasmania's east coast;
- Continuing to support increasing the rock lobster biomass through the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Strategy;
- A socio-economic assessment of the commercial East Coast rock lobster fishery alongside a FishWise state-wide rock lobster education and awareness campaign;
- Increase in the minimum size limits for female lobsters in the North-West region to help increase lobster recruitment and biomass; and
- Increase in commercial pot numbers from 50 to 60 per boat in the West Coast region.

We are also working in partnership with fishers to rebuild our under pressure abalone stocks, particularly on the East Coast, taking actions including reducing the commercial catch by close to 50 per cent over the past 10 years.

Commencing this season, recreational fishers will have access to:

- A bag limit of five for abalone taken from the eastern region, and 10 for western areas;

- A state-wide possession limit of 10 abalone; and
- A boat limit of 25 abalone will apply for the eastern region.

Furthermore, we are continuing to deliver our \$5.1 million Abalone Industry Redevelopment Fund.

To boost the viability of our popular calamari and squid fisheries, the fishery will again be closed this October to allow for spawning.

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government is backing our regional communities and supporting the Tasmanian way of life.

We are investing \$13.8 million in our wild catch and farmed seafood sector, and delivering on our comprehensive Recreational Fishing and Boating strategy of infrastructure upgrades, improving access and angler opportunities.

For more information can be found on the DPIPWE website: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au