

# Scalefish Review 2015

## Key Outcomes

After a major review and extensive consultation of the Scalefish Fishery Management Plan, new scalefish rules will apply from 1 November 2015. A report on the Review and the final rules are available at [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au).

The changes aim to:

- Improve sustainability of fish stocks;
- Reduce bycatch, wildlife interactions and fish wastage; and
- Protect niche recreational fishing opportunities.

### Recreational catch limits

Bag and possession limits apply for all scalefish, shark, squid, octopus, inshore crabs, prawns and some small invertebrate bait groups. See Tables 1 & 2 on pages 9-10.



Bag limits are the amount of fish an individual fisher can take in any one day.



Possession limits are how much an individual can possess anywhere in Tasmania (including your home).

*Catch limits have been set after balancing a range of factors including:*

- *Biological information – including sustainability and exploitation levels;*
- *What is reasonable for an immediate feed, fisher satisfaction, catch sharing and group fishing activities – particularly for large fish;*
- *Fish wastage, meat recovery and survivability;*
- *Seasonality (presence of species) and accessibility eg travel, weather;*
- *Compliance risk—market value or having quantities beyond what could be considered reasonable recreational amount (i.e., commercial quantities).*



Boat limits have only been adopted for Tuna (except albacore and skipjack), Marlin and swordfish, shark, striped trumpeter and blue-eye trevalla. Where a boat limit applies they apply equally to private and charter vessels. The person in charge of the boat is responsible for adhering to boat limits.

*Boat limits assist in compliance, as it limits the fishing unit irrespective of how many persons are on the vessel. Boat limits are warranted for particular fish types which tend to have high meat returns or the effective fishing unit is the fishing group utilising the boat and associated technology and gear.*

## Sand and tiger flathead

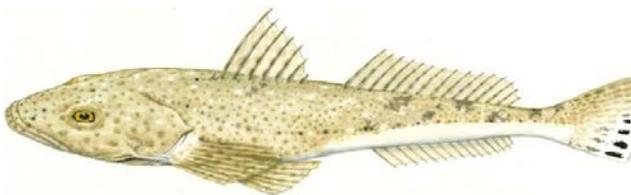


A new **Size limit** of 32 cm applies to commercial and recreational fishers. A **daily bag limit** of 20 applies to recreational fishers. The possession limit remains at 30. No boat limits apply.

*An increase in the size limit takes into account the high fishing pressure on faster growing female sand flathead and increases meat return for each fish taken. Moving to size limit of 32 cm allows females to spawn for an additional year before entering the fishery. Fishers may experience a drop off in catch rates in some areas as the fishery readjusts.*

## Southern bluespotted and rock flathead

A new **size limit** of 40 cm applies for commercial and recreational fishers. A **recreational bag limit** of 5 applies for this fish group—of which only one fish can be greater than 60 cm.



*A size limit of 40 cm reflects the size of maturity. This combined with a specific bag limit including a restriction of large fish aims to maintain niche fishing opportunities.*

## Striped trumpeter



The minimum size limit is 55 cm. A Boat limit of 20 applies to recreational fishers. Note commercial trips limits have been in operation for many years and has been successful in controlling the commercial take.

*The new size limit of 55 cm is closer to the size of maturity of 60 cm. This combined with the boat limit of 20, daily bag limit of 4 and seasonal closure<sup>1</sup> aims to limit the recreational catch in recognition of the stock status concerns for striped trumpeter.*

## Size limits

The minimum size limit for **King George whiting** is 35 cm; for **yellowtail kingfish** 45 cm, and **silver warehou** is 25 cm (the same as blue warehou). There is no size limit for Tailor.



<sup>1</sup> Seasonal closures and size limits also apply to commercial fishers

## Gillnets

Recreational gillnets are restricted to **day sets only**<sup>2</sup> and need to be removed from the water one hour before sunset and not set prior to sunrise.

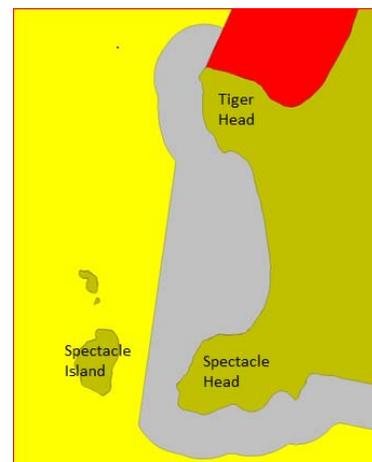
A number of new areas have been declared **Gillnet Free Areas for all commercial and recreational Gillnets**.

New gillnet closed areas are at the Macquarie Harbour entrance (including Bonnet Island), Godfreys Beach (Stanley), Low Head, Lilloco Beach, Musselroe Bay, Parsonage Point (Burnie), Waubs Bay (Bicheno), Sloping Island and Spectacle Island (Frederick Henry Bay). The Derwent River no gillnetting boundary has been extended to Dennes Point/ Cape Direction. New maps are in the 2015/16 Recreational Sea Fishing Guide, Tas Fish Guide App and on our website at [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au).

*The closures aim to reduce wildlife interaction risks (particularly penguins), and depending on the area have other benefits such as resource sharing and reducing the impact of netting on particular species, such as reef species, bastard trumpeter and bream.*



**River Derwent gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. The area shaded in red is the closed area for all nets (except landing nets). Gillnets (excluding mullet nets) can be used in the area shaded in grey.



**Frederick Henry Bay – Spectacle Island gillnet closure:** gillnets (excluding mullet nets) can still be used in the areas shaded in grey.



**Frederick Henry Bay – Sloping Island gillnet closure:** an alternate proposal which allows netting on the outer side of Sloping Island and increasing the closure on the eastern side of the island was adopted after consultation. Shaded yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. Gillnets (excluding mullet nets) can be used in the areas shaded in grey. No gillnets are allowed in the blue area.

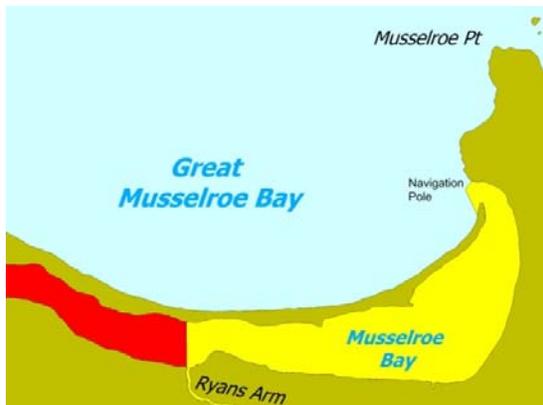
<sup>2</sup> Excluding Macquarie Harbour



**Neck Beach, Bruny Island gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets.



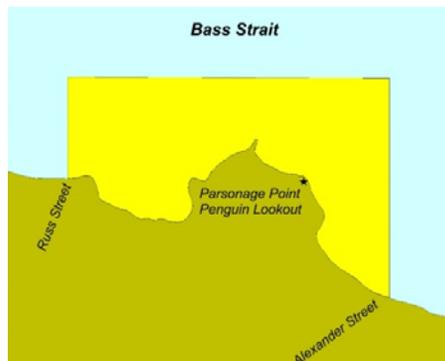
**Waubs Bay, Bicheno gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. This has been modified from the original proposal and excludes Trap Reef.



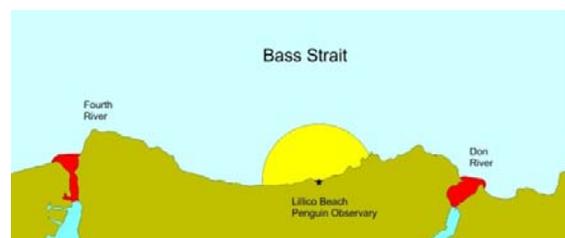
**Musselroe Bay gillnet closure:** The area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. The closure is to protect bream from net fishers. The red area is a no netting area—except for landing nets.



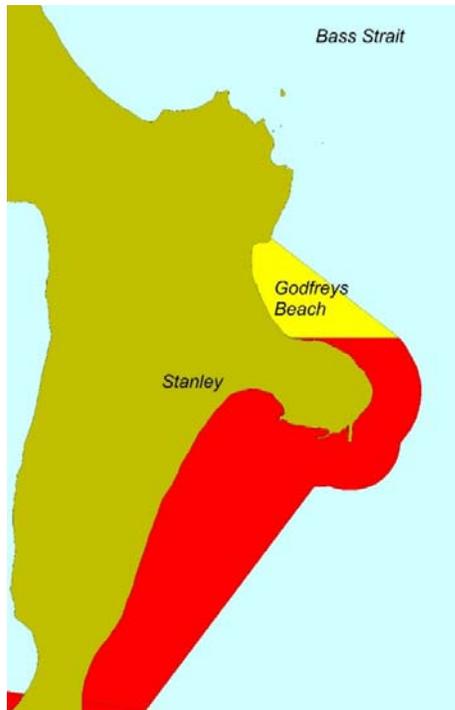
**Low Head gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. The proposed boundaries were changed to avoid a valued fishing spot, while still maintaining the intended protection around penguin colonies on Low Head.



**Parsonage Point gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. The boundaries were aligned to follow distinctive road land marks.



**Lilloco Beach gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets within 1 km from the Lilloco Beach penguin viewing platform.



**Godfreys Beach, Stanley gillnet closure:** the area shaded in yellow indicates the new closure for all gillnets. The area shaded in red is the existing no netting area for all nets except landing nets.



**Macquarie Harbour gillnet closures:** the areas shaded in yellow indicate the new recreational gillnet closures. Gillnets can be used in the areas shaded in grey. No gillnets are permitted in the area shaded in red.

**Macquarie Harbour recreational night netting** is now restricted from **one** hour before sunset to **one** hour after sunrise and must have a red buoy at each end of the net. Day nets can only be set one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset and have no red marker buoys. New gillnet closed areas for recreational gillnets include Macquarie Harbour Entrance, Internal waters, Birchs Inlet, Narrows and Lower Birchs Inlet. Set lines can no longer be used in Macquarie Harbour.

*This aims to reduce bycatch—particularly interactions with Maugean Skate. It also aims to minimise resource sharing—net/angling issues. After considering submissions, further consultation with the local community and consideration of new research information, area amendments and extensive area closures have been adopted instead of the “winter” seasonal closure proposed in the review.*

The **minimum age** for holding a recreational gillnet or setline licence is now 10 years.

*This aims to reflect a degree of capability and responsibility required to set fishing gear.*

Recreational **Gillnets** and **longlines** now require **marker buoys** with the user’s unique identifying code/licence number **at each** end.

*This assists to identify legal fishing gear.*

## Set lines

Recreational set lines can now only be used from one hour before sunrise until one hour before sunset (ie not used at night) and not more than 15 hooks can be used—although two fishers can join their lines in waters less than 150 metres. Sharing provisions in waters greater than 150 metres remain unchanged.

*This aims to minimise bycatch, fish wastage and lost lines and assist compliance.*

Set lines cannot be used in the Leven, Forth, Mersey or Musselroe Rivers, Ansons Bay, Macquarie Harbour and in the western side of Southport Bay.

## Seine nets

**Recreational and commercial beach seine and commercial purse seine nets** cannot be used in Robbins Passage.

*This aims to protect habitat (sea grass), reduce damage to calamari egg mops and niche fishing opportunities.*

## Other changes

The take and possession of **blue groper** is now prohibited.

*This will assist in combating urchin barrens.*

**Atlantic salmon** can be used as **bait**. The review proposed to prohibit the use of Atlantic salmon and ocean trout as bait due to biosecurity reasons for the marine farming sector.

*Instead, a broad educational approach emphasising that generally fishers should not use/move any fish on a large scale due to disease risks. If you are using escaped Atlantic salmon or the frames of ocean trout for bait, please use only in the general area from which it was caught—e.g. **don't use salmon caught on the west coast when fishing on the south east or east coast.***

**Berley** cannot be used to attract shark and fish for any purpose other than fishing, with the exception of a person who uses commercial bait pellets or other processed food products intended for consumption by animals or humans. Mammal flesh, blood or offal other than pellets cannot be used as berley.

*The intention is to prevent the "berleying" up of sharks creating risks to other water users.*

**Auxiliary recreational fishing gear** such as kites and balloons may be used to deploy or retrieve up to 200 metres of fishing line with 5 hooks or less. This gear is not permitted in rivers or shark refuge areas. To reduce the risk of interactions with other water users, auxiliary gear cannot be used within 100 metres of swimmers or any vessel, or within 400 metres of a boat ramp, jetty or mooring. A fisher using auxiliary fishing gear from land must remain within 20 metres of the gear and not use the gear more than 20 metres from the high water mark. Auxiliary gear does not include electric reels, or capstans or haulers used for set lines.

Recreational **spearing** of flounder is now allowed in the **Inglis, Leven and Mersey Rivers**. Spearing of other fish remains prohibited.

The **commercial Banded Morwong Fishery** quota management system will move from a numbers to weight based quota management—commencing in the 2016/17 quota year.

*This will improve the integrity of the quota management system.*

**Closed seasons** for banded morwong, southern calamari and striped trumpeter have now been specifically incorporated within the management plan.

*It is more cost effective to include long term and established closures within the legislation and still maintain flexibility to change if new information warrants it.*

A number of **administrative changes** were identified that will provide consistency across fisheries or better clarify the intent and purpose of existing rules. These include (but are not limited to):

- Clarifying the difference between gillnets and beach seine nets.
- Clarifying and correcting area descriptions in Schedules 2, 4 and 7, such as Anderson Bay, Southport, Southport Bay West, Duck Bay, Robbins Passage, Frederick Henry Bay and Norfolk Bay.
- Removing Arch Island—which is now inside the Nine Pin Point Marine Reserve.
- Fixing an error that inadvertently stops a rock lobster licence package from using a wrasse licence attached to that package.
- Reviewing the definition of an “auxiliary vessel”.
- Including Georges Bay in Schedule 6 so that recreational beach seine nets are also banned from being used here.
- Remove the word “take” from the definition of a landing net.
- Fixing an error that inadvertently limits the number of jigs that can be used on an automatic squid jig machine by the holder of a scalefish A or B licence. The original intent was to limit the number of hand jigs not the number of jigs on an automatic jig machine.
- Clarifying that a fishing licence (scalefish C) can only be used by the holder of the licence—no supervisors are permitted on this type of licence.
- Changing “a person” to “the holder of a fishing licence (personal)” for the take and possession of octopus.
- Updating and correcting species common names to the national standard fish names where relevant in Schedule 1 and updating the definition of species where necessary.
- Adding a new subrule that reflects the new trip limit for striped trumpeter allowed for Commonwealth fishers.

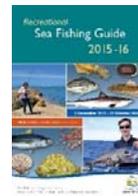
## Proposals not implemented

Proposals consulted on during the review and **not** being implemented include:

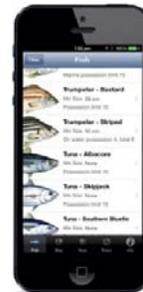
- Landing flathead whole or with frames in the northwest
- Prohibition of spearing banded morwong and striped trumpeter
- Banning use of Atlantic salmon as bait
- Specialised scalefish recreational fishing licence
- Area restrictions on electric reels
- Altering the restriction for commercial banded morwong quota holdings.

## Five ways to get key information

1. **Recreational sea fishing Guide** – read the Guide to keep up-to-date with all the fisheries rules and read our responsible fishing tips. Also featured is news on the latest scientific research for Tasmania's recreational sea fisheries. Available from Service Tasmania or your local tackle shop.



2. **Tas Fish Guide App** – the free Tas Fish Guide App is an interactive version of the Recreational Sea Fishing Guide and more. It has catch limits, images and descriptions and recipes of fish you may encounter. It has an interactive GPS with area restrictions and links to weather and tide information. You can even keep a personal log of your catches.



3. **Fisheries Tasmania on Facebook**



4. **DPIPWE Fisheries news email subscription service** – be informed about seasons, new fisheries management, research outcomes and public health alerts. Register at [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au).



5. More information, including all the above items, can be accessed on the internet at [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au).

**Table 1: Non-commercial catch limits for General Species**

<b>General Species Catch Limits</b>	<b>Bag limit</b>	<b>Possession limit</b>
<b>Fish Group</b>		
Anglerfish	2	4
Australian salmon	15	30
Barracouta	15	30
Boarfish – combined total	2	4
Bream	5	10
Cod – combined total	15	30
Elephantfish	2	4
Flathead (excluding bluespotted and rock) – combined total	20	30
Flathead, bluespotted and rock with one greater than 600mm – combined total	5	10
Flounder – combined total	15	30
Garfish, including King gar – combined total	15	30
Gurnards and Ocean perch – combined total	15	30
Herring cale	5	10
Inshore crab – combined total	15	30
Invertebrate bait species (includes worms, burrowing shrimp, soldier crabs)	50	100
Leatherjacket – combined total	10	20
Mackerel – combined total	30	60
Morwong, banded	2	4
Morwong species except banded morwong – combined total	10	20
Mullet – combined	15	30
Octopus – combined	5	10
Pike, longfinned	15	30
Pike, shortfinned (snook)	5	10
Prawns	50	100
Red velvetfish	2	4
Prowfish	2	4
Salmonids, ocean trout	12	24
Salmonids, Atlantic	12	24
Silver trevally	10	20
Snapper	5	10
Small pelagic species (Australian anchovy, Australian sardine, Australian sprat, blue sprat, hardyhead)	50	100
Squid, Gould's	15	30
Squid, calamari	10	20
Tailor	5	10
Trumpeter, bastard	5	10
Warehou – combined total	10	20
Whiting, King George	5	10
Whiting (except King George whiting) – combined total	15	30
Wrasse – combined total	5	10
Yellowtail kingfish	5	10
Unspecified species (except protected fish)	5	10

**Table 2: Non-commercial catch limits for Shark and Specialised Scalefish**

<b>Shark and Specialised Scalefish Species</b>	<b>Bag limit</b>	<b>Possession limit</b>	<b>Boat limit</b>	<b>Boat Limit Comments</b>
Billfish, marlin	1	1	2	
Billfish, sword	1	1	2	
Blue-eye trevalla	5	10	25	
sharks and rays – excluding elephantfish, gummy, school, mako and blue	2	4	5	Boat limits apply to all vessels for all species combined
Shark, school and gummy	2	2	5	Boat limits apply to all vessels for all species combined
Shark, blue and mako	1	2	2	Only 2 of the shark combined boat limit can be blue or mako
Striped trumpeter	4	8	20	
Tuna, SBT and yellowfin and bigeye	2	2	4	of which two can be over 150 cm
Tuna, albacore	5	10		Boat limits do not apply to albacore
Tuna, skipjack	10	20		Boat limits do not apply to skipjack

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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