



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy

FAQ #3 – SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL FISHING IN OUR MARINE ESTATE

The Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) has released a Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy (draft Strategy), setting out the proposed approach to manage the statewide priority threats to the marine estate.

This fact sheet outlines how the draft Strategy intends to support sustainable recreational fishing in our NSW marine estate. We welcome your feedback on this draft Strategy.

WHY IS THE DRAFT STRATEGY NEEDED?

The marine estate includes some of NSW's most valued assets – its coastline, estuaries and marine waters. It provides a range of environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to the NSW community.

The Strategy is a requirement of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. It must set out the vision and priorities for management of the marine estate.

The vision for the marine estate is a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

The draft Strategy proposes eight management initiatives to address priority and cumulative threats to the marine estate over the next decade in order to deliver on the vision for the marine estate.

WHY IS RECREATIONAL FISHING IMPORTANT?

Recreational fishing generates about \$3.4 billion of economic activity annually and creates the equivalent of around 14,000 full-time jobs. It offers important health and social benefits and is enjoyed by 850,000 anglers every year.

WHY IS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE 6 – SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND AQUACULTURE NEEDED?

The statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (statewide TARA) identified statewide priority threats (i.e. deemed a moderate or high risk level across the three regions – northern, central and southern) to the environment associated with recreational fishing, as well as threats to the social, cultural and economic benefits fishers obtain from fishing in the marine estate.

Boat based fishing offshore was identified as a moderate threat to fish populations due to the harvest of fish from the marine ecosystem, and also a moderate threat to some threatened species listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Shore based fishing in estuaries and coastal foreshores were also identified as a moderate threat to fish populations. Harvesting of species from rocky shores was also identified as a moderate threat to reef and rocky shore species.

The statewide TARA also identified priority threats to recreational fishers' enjoyment of, participation in or businesses associated with recreational fishing. These include loss of access to areas, resource-use conflict with other users of the marine estate, reductions in catch due to reduced species abundance (including from loss or degradation of fish habitats and the range of pollution that impact on fish species, water quality and amenity).

HOW WILL THE DRAFT STRATEGY IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FISHING?

Management initiative 6 aims to *ensure fishing and aquaculture provides for sustainable use while providing for the health, heritage and social benefits of seafood consumption to the community*. In addition, management initiative 8 aims to *improve governance arrangements in the marine estate and to respond to knowledge gaps, resource-use conflict and loss of public access*.

Actions to address the priority environmental threats and to maximise the social and economic benefits derived from recreational fishing include:

- undertaking an environmental assessment of recreational fishing
- proactive management of recreationally important fish species via the adoption of best practice fishing techniques and a review of fishing rules to address threats associated with harvest, bycatch and illegal sale of fish
- undertaking a range of research and monitoring to address key knowledge gaps

- considering possible spatial management options to reduce threats to the environment and improve recreational fishing outcomes
- undertaking sustainable fishery enhancement initiatives to improve recreational fishing opportunities
- investigating and implementing opportunities to promote sustainable fishing to build social licence
- building stakeholder capacity in marine estate management via advisory groups
- establishing a Marine Integrated Monitoring Program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the management actions over time.



HAVE YOUR SAY

The Authority is seeking your feedback on the draft Strategy. You can submit your feedback via an electronic submission form on the marine estate reforms website www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

More information on consultation and opportunities to provide feedback can be found at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any queries or would like to register for marine estate reform updates you can email us at contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au.

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