

Inland Fisheries Service

Strategy to Increase Participation in Tasmania's Inland Recreational Fishery 2021-28



Minister's message

It is my pleasure to present the *Strategy to Increase Participation in Tasmania's Inland Recreational Fishery 2021-28 (Strategy 2021-28)* to complement the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28*.

The *Strategy 2021-28* is about increasing participation in Tasmania's inland recreational fishery through focused promotion while encouraging resource stewardship among inland recreational anglers.

Recreational inland fishing is both a traditional Tasmanian pastime and an industry supporting regional economies, providing jobs in associated businesses and tourism enterprises. Tasmania's tradition with trout fishing spans more than 150 years and is enjoyed by local and visiting anglers in the beautiful surrounds our state offers.

The *Strategy 2021-28* aims to promote the fishery, improve fisheries education and awareness, support angling clubs, promote junior angling, provide information to support management and maintain and develop fishing related infrastructure.

The *Strategy to Increase Participation in Tasmania's Inland Recreational Fishery* will help manage, improve, and promote the diverse inland angling opportunities for anglers. I am proud to support a strategy that caters for anglers of all skill levels and fishing interests and which maintains a strong and sustainable fishery for current and future generations.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Guy Barnett'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

The Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
June 2021



The Hon Guy Barnett, MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, with a brown trout at Craighourne Dam

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Cover image: Samuel Shelley



Shaun Cooper and his daughter at Lake Rowallan (Photo Shaun Cooper)

Introduction

Tasmania's wild brown trout fishery, established in 1864, is one of the best in the world with around 25 000 recreational anglers each year and generating an estimated \$90 million for regional economies through tourism. From accessible areas to remote wilderness, there are opportunities for all.

The *Strategy to Increase Participation in Tasmania's Inland Recreational Fishery 2021-28* (*Strategy 2021-28*) outlines the goals, strategies and actions that will be used to increase participation and support investment through an attractive, vibrant and adaptively managed recreational trout fishery.

The *Strategy 2021-28* will put in place measures to allow informed fisheries management decisions to be made and to maintain and grow partnerships and key relationships. It will guide the continued development of infrastructure, facilities and access to support the freshwater fishing experience.

The *Strategy 2021-28*, through consultation with anglers and representative organisations, will support angling clubs to promote junior angling, encourage female participation and actively engage anglers in the stewardship of Tasmania's inland fisheries and waterways.

Many changes and challenges are emerging to confront recreational fishing in Tasmania. Environmental factors such as changing climate, pest fish incursions, changing water and land use, drought and, bushfire along with social factors such as an aging demographic and competing priorities. Recently Covid -19 has influenced participation, significantly reducing mainland and overseas visitors but increasing local anglers.

The final *Strategy to Increase Participation in Tasmania's Inland Recreational Fishery 2021-28* will provide the confidence for stakeholders to partner together to support and build the industry.

Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) vision

It is our vision to have sustainable, vibrant and healthy inland fisheries that are the envy of Australia and the world.

Aim

The purpose of the *Strategy 2021-28* is to provide clarity about the management of the inland trout fishery to the recreational fishing sector, to realise opportunities and meet challenges.

Key principals of Tasmania's inland recreational fishery

- Recreational fishing contributes to health and wellbeing.
- The Tasmanian fishery is based on wild brown trout in a natural environment.
- Tasmania offers unique experiences that are universally attractive to anglers.
- Healthy environments are fundamental to sustainable recreational fishing and fish resources.
- Anglers share in the stewardship of the fishery.
- Management decisions are based on sound scientific, ecological, social and economic information.
- Anglers and government share the responsibility and costs of managing the fishery.

Goals

The following goals form the basis of the Strategy 2021-28.

1. The inland recreational fishery is attractive, vibrant and adaptive, encouraging investment and increased participation.
2. Actively engage anglers in the stewardship of Tasmania's inland fisheries and waterways.
3. Make informed fisheries management decisions.
4. Maintain and develop infrastructure, facilities and access.
5. Grow partnerships and key relationships.



Michael, Lucy and Liam Deppeler with a tagged trout worth \$2,000 caught from the River Derwent. One of the 50 tagged trout released for the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion 2021-22



The inland recreational fishery is attractive, vibrant and adaptive, encouraging investment and increased participation

A Thriving Industry

We recognise the economic, recreational, and social benefits of the fishery. While the economic value of recreational fishing can be quantified and expressed in millions, it's the value to the state in terms of social benefits that is harder to define. The challenge is to increase participation while providing a diverse range of opportunities and experiences without compromising the unique values.

Strategy 1: Provide a range of experiences and opportunities.

Strategy 2: Use the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* and the Annual Stocking Plan to optimise fisheries performance, protect the fishery, increase participation and encourage investment.

Strategy 3: Control disease and pest fish.

Strategy 4: Promote the health and wellbeing opportunities provided by recreational freshwater fishing.

Strategy 5: Support private sector investment through strategic fishery management.

Strategy 6: Support anglers and industry through a range of media and events.

Actions to address the strategies

1. Provide a range of fisheries across Tasmania catering for different skill levels to optimise the angling experience through seasons, stocking, species diversity, angling methods and access.
2. Support Anglers Alliance Tasmania, angling clubs and community organisations to promote recreational fishing programs for children, women, elderly, families and disadvantaged groups.
3. Prevent disease and pest fish movement through strict cleaning procedures and regulation.
4. Promote public awareness of the General Biosecurity Duty and the risks posed by weeds, aquatic environmental pests and disease.
5. Engage with lapsed anglers by direct mail.
6. Promote the benefits of inland fishing to saltwater fishers through articles in fishing magazines.
7. Update and improve the IFS website, Infish app and Instagram.
8. Deliver Trout Weekend and Talk trout Tasmania annually.
9. Support events including national Gone Fishing Day, Tasmanian Trout Expo-Cressy and the Great Lake Tie In.
10. Produce the Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code annually and maintain brochures and signage.
11. Undertake an annual promotion.



Willow Warrior's, Tyenna River (Derwent Catchment Project)

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Actively engage anglers in the stewardship of Tasmania's inland fisheries and waterways.

Partners in caring for the environment

Strategy 1: Provide opportunities for anglers to engage in the management of the fishery.

Strategy 2: Encourage anglers to be involved in and support fisheries specific environmental programs.

Strategy 3: Facilitate angler involvement in management planning and consultative processes.

Actions to address the strategies

1. Support the administration of the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund.
2. Direct donations from Trout Weekend to the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund.
3. Promote donations to the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund in IFS communications.
4. Encourage anglers to support habitat improvement projects such as the Tyenna River Restoration Project.
5. Consult with anglers and representative organisations on fisheries policy and regulation.
6. Direct community consultation and funding opportunities through Anglers Alliance Tasmania.
7. Encourage the reporting of breaches of fisheries and environmental legislation.
8. Lead and encourage participation in Clean Up Australia Day.



Monitoring the brown trout spawning run at the River Derwent Fish Trap, Lake King William

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Make informed fisheries management decisions

Knowledge informs decisions

Our management decisions are based on sound scientific, ecological, social and economic information to ensure healthy environments that are fundamental to a sustainable recreational fishing sector and fish resources.

Strategy 1: Study the fishery to understand and optimise outcomes for the community.

Strategy 2: Undertake strategic sampling and support modelling of our inland waterways.

Strategy 3: Develop new methods to collect, collate and analyse angler data.

Actions to address the strategies

1. Undertake Fisheries Performance Assessments as set out in the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28*.
2. Coordinate fish sampling with DPIPWWE river health monitoring.
3. Share fishery data across agencies to support decision making.
4. Develop an electronic angler survey to replace the Angler Postal Survey to inform participation in regions and specific waters.
5. Develop an electronic angler creel survey to enable fisheries officers to collect real time data to compliment the electronic angler survey.
6. Support the Statewide and National Recreational Fishing Surveys to provide information and perspective.



Angler access to the Macquarie River

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Maintain and develop infrastructure, facilities and access

Access to fisheries

Access is fundamental to providing a vibrant and diverse fishery. It allows fishing effort to be dispersed and the overall experience to be enhanced.

Providing infrastructure for anglers is becoming more important as community expectations for basic amenities and facilities increase. Angling infrastructure and basic facilities are required to increase participation levels and improve satisfaction with the fishing experience.

Strategy 1: Through the Anglers Access Program (AAP), maintain, improve and create angler access and facilities.

Strategy 2: Work with community groups and all levels of government to gain funding and assist with project management of priority projects.

Strategy 3: Partner with landowners and land managers to identify opportunities for improvements to access and facilities.

Actions to address the strategies

1. Develop strategic partnerships to maintain and improve access infrastructure, including boat ramps, car parks, signage, navigation hazard warnings, tracks, roads, camping areas and amenity blocks.
2. Manage AAP infrastructure using a data collection app and LIST map.
3. Enhance and develop accessible fisheries close to population centres.
4. Improve facilities at key fisheries to encourage and support female participation.
5. Negotiate access to new fisheries associated with irrigation infrastructure development.
6. Negotiate access to private farm dams for public fishing.



Anglers Alliance, Hydro Tasmania, MAST and the IFS working to improve Lake Rowallan boat ramp

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Grow partnerships and key relationships

Working together

The IFS interact, consults and partners with stakeholders in a variety of ways. Some are landowners and land managers, some provide promotion and marketing, some are supportive industries and participants in the fishery.

Strategy 1: Consult and communicate with stakeholders.

Strategy 2: Work with land and water managers to develop the fishery.

Strategy 3: Collaborate with other agencies to protect the fishery.

Strategy 4: Work with tourism organisations and industry to promote the fishery.

Strategy 5: Support angling bodies to foster junior angling and encourage participation.

Actions to address the strategies

1. Consult on the Western Lakes and yingina / Great Lake fisheries management plans.
2. To reflect a contemporary fishery, consult on annual legislation review.
3. Communicate regularly using the IFS website, Instagram, Infish App.
4. Maintain Memorandum of Understanding and licence agreements with Hydro Tasmania, Forico, Tasmania Irrigation, Van Dairy Group private and public landowners.
5. Work with TasWater, Parks and Wildlife Service including Crown Land Services, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Local Government and Marine and Safety Tasmania to protect and develop the fishery.
6. Deliver Trout Weekend, national Gone Fishing Day, Talk trout Tasmania and presentations to angling clubs.
7. Support Tasmanian Trout Expo (Cressy) and angling club events i.e. North West Fisheries Association Ladies Day, Burbury Competition and Wayatinah Sports and Social Club.
8. Support Anglers Alliance Tasmania to coordinated and conduct junior angling development activities
9. Provide technical and/or product development support to Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania and Tourism Australia.
10. Participate in strategic campaigns, events and activities to target intrastate, interstate and overseas anglers.
11. Support Tasmanian Visitor Information Network, Spirit of Tasmania and licence agents with hardware, online licence system and promotional material.

