



POLICY

INDEPENDENT FOR FRANKLIN

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

Our coasts and coastal waters are soul places for Tasmanians.

For almost one third of Tasmanians (29.3%) wetting a line is a popular lifestyle choice. Per head of population, more of us fish than in any other state of Australia.

Our coastal waters, habitat diversity and ecosystems are part of the common wealth of publicly owned resources for Tasmanians.

But they're under threat. We live in a time of immense change. Warming waters, ocean acidification, pollution, and human-induced pressures from commercial fishing and seismic testing add stress to fish populations.

In recent years, media have reported a global 90% reduction in some fish stocks. As industrial salmon farming ring worms its way around Tasmania, bio disasters are occurring in Macquarie Harbour and the southeast.

For years, Australian fisheries management planning has enabled harvesting down to just 20% of the original biomass. That reveals a systemic intention to reduce fish stocks by 80% and in practice even this limit is often bypassed.

Recreational fishers are affected by all this – a range of species including Sand Flathead, Southern Rock Lobster, Calamari, Striped Trumpeter, Garfish and more are subject to rule changes that either limit take home catch or introduce protection measures such as seasonal closures, area restrictions and changing size limits.

Now plans are being discussed to open up the Tasmanian sardine fishery. The government has already intimated much of it might be destined for salmon feed with an unknown impact on coastal fish stocks. It's an outlook that has appalled both recreational and commercial fishers - including those who want to harvest sardines sustainably for human consumption.

While all this happens, representation for recreational fishers does not reflect the influence justified by the effort and expenditure of the community.

Associated with fisheries management is access to our pristine coastal waters with increasing frustration and concern over the impact of the foreign-owned salmon industry.

If elected in the Federal seat of Franklin, I will use my influence to promote a policy that ensures sustainable management of our commercial and recreational fisheries so we can hand it to future generations healthy and thriving.

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I will fight to:

- **Set commercial fishing limits to ensure sustainability based on independent science.**
- **Set a biomass limit at or above 50% that significantly boosts fishery productivity and reduces the risks that low biomass poses to species' reproductive success.**
- **Raise the threshold for management action to a more reasonable 40% or higher.**
- **Work with representative fishers organisations to ensure a stronger and democratic voice for recreational fishers.**
- **Ensure the transition of the salmon industry out of Tasmania's vulnerable coastal waterways, while ensuring they pay full value for the waters they use and damage done to our inland and coastal waterways.**
- **Ensure independent scientific research drives fisheries management by having stronger independence and funding provided to ensure scientific advice is accurate and provided without bias or complication associated with funding streams or project outcome influence.**
- **Ensure TOTAL transparency of performance with real time reporting of catch including discards and biomass levels of all commercial and recreationally important species.**

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