

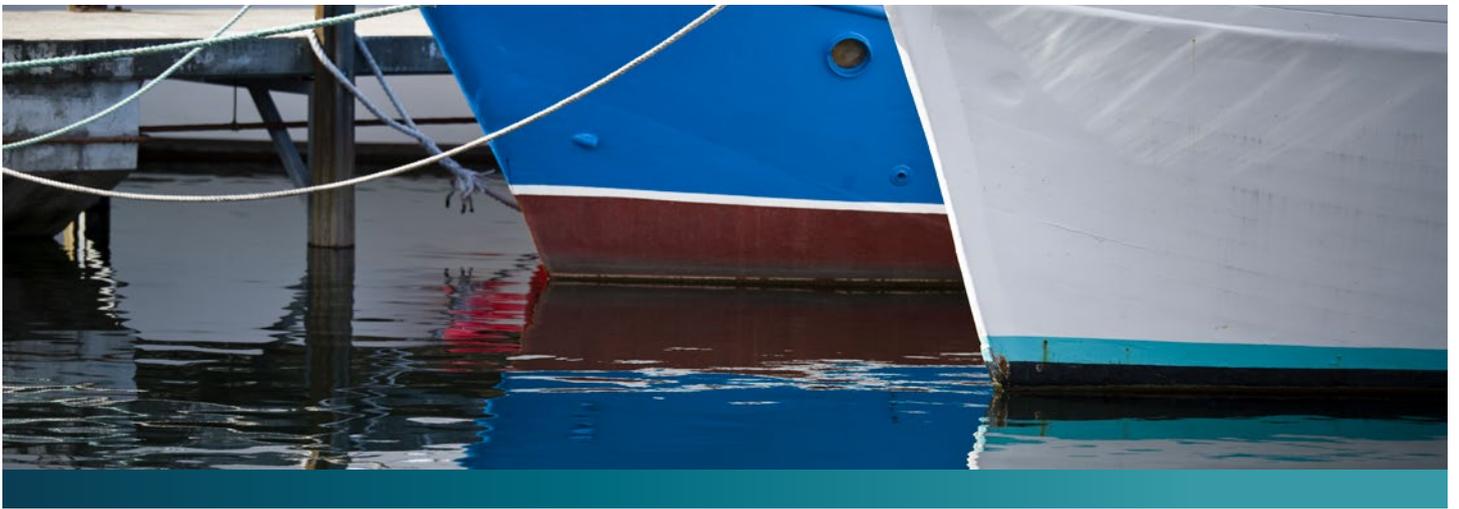
THE TASMANIAN SMART  
SEAFOOD PARTNERSHIP

# A BOATING CODE OF PRACTICE



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# MARINE SAFETY

**AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) and MAST (Marine and Safety Tasmania) provide clear guidance on maritime safety for commercial (including fishing) vessels and recreational boaters, respectively.**

## GENERAL SAFETY DUTY

General safety duties are a legal requirement under Australian law. They apply to *everyone* working on, travelling on, or servicing commercial vessels. They are in place to:

- eliminate or minimise the risk of serious incidents (death, injury, or damage)
- encourage the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a safety culture

While the owner or skipper of a fishing vessel is legally responsible for the safety of everyone onboard, the crew (and any passengers) also have a duty of care to ensure vessel and personnel safety. **General safety duties** are listed on AMSA's website.

## SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A key general safety duty for fishing boat owners or skippers is implementing and maintaining the SMS (Safety Management System). The SMS is a legal requirement for commercial vessels. A *properly* maintained SMS is needed for marine surveys or when applying for or renewing a Certificate of Operation. All Australian commercial vessels, including fishing vessels, must have a compliant SMS, even when exempt from a Certificate of Operation.

The SMS documents how a vessel is kept safe, and addresses specific risks and conditions for the vessel, its operations, area of operation and crew. When developing the SMS, it is best practice to involve crew members in the process. This helps identify all risks and encourages everyone to think about their role in ensuring safety of the vessel and its operations.

SMS has two parts:

- The vessel and its operations, including crew details, risk assessment, operational and emergency procedures, and maintenance records
- Maintaining the SMS every time you go to sea via a log (digital or paper)

**Both parts are needed for a compliant SMS.**

Owners and skippers can develop and maintain a **compliant SMS** using the tools available on the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) website.

## RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

Recreational boat operators need to be familiar with MAST rules and regulations. Operators using boats with motors greater than 4 HP must hold an appropriate and current MAST license.

Some basic safety precautions for recreational boat operators include:

- Know the area in which you are boating and seek local knowledge.
- Monitor the weather before and during your trip, including tides and expected sea conditions.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Know the limitations of your boat.
- Know your own limitations – if you're in any doubt, return to port.
- Carry the right safety equipment and know how to use it.
- Don't commit yourself to the trip – cancel if the weather is bad.
- Know the load limit of your boat and don't exceed it.
- Carry some spare fuel, tools, and basic spare parts.
- Always wear an approved, appropriately sized life jacket on boats 6m and under. Every person on board needs to be in an approved life jacket.
- Children should be put in approved life jackets at the boat ramp, and supervised in the boat.
- Alcohol and boating don't mix.

## MARINE INCIDENTS

The owner or skipper (or master) of a commercial vessel involved in a marine incident **must notify AMSA** as soon as reasonably possible by completing and submitting **Form 18**. An incident report (**Form 19**) must also be completed and submitted within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident. Both forms can be completed online or submitted by email ([reports@amsa.gov.au](mailto:reports@amsa.gov.au)).

Marine incidents are defined by various Australian laws and include different types of incidents, including damage to boats, injury or death of personnel, damage to marine infrastructure and release of pollutants. A complete list of **marine incidents** is available on AMSA's website.

Marine incidents involving recreational vessels in Tasmanian waters must be reported to MAST by the quickest practicable means. An **Incident Report** Form must also be completed and lodged with MAST for all incidents involving recreational vessels. Maritime incidents are defined in Tasmania's **Marine and Safety (Maritime Incidents) Regulations 2017**. Broadly, these incidents involve: death, serious injury or loss overboard of a person; a collision or near collision with a vessel or object; disablement or abandonment of a vessel; or the loss overboard of major items of equipment or cargo.



# MARINE BIOSECURITY RISKS

**Marine biosecurity is a concern for Tasmania's economy and marine environment, and for the health of our human population.**

Under Tasmania's [General Biosecurity Duty \(GBD\)](#), all Tasmanians have a Duty of Care with respect to biosecurity. Individuals, private corporations, and government entities need to take *all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks*. Bringing prohibited marine species into Tasmania, or moving them between marine zones, breaches the GBD. A reckless or intentional breach of the GBD is considered an aggravated offence under the [Biosecurity Act 2019](#), and may result in a significant penalty. Tasmania's GBD aligns closely with Australia's [Marine Pest Plan \(2018-2023\)](#), a national strategic plan for marine pest biosecurity.

## CONTROLLING MARINE BIOSECURITY RISKS

Biosecurity events can be challenging to detect early. If prohibited or restricted marine<sup>1</sup> species (biosecurity risk material) are allowed to establish, they can be difficult to eradicate. Control efforts for introduced or established biosecurity risk material focus on minimising risk through effective containment and management processes. The most effective mitigation strategy is to prevent entry and establishment entirely.

Most marine biosecurity risk material is spread through marine vessels, their equipment, or untreated discharged ballast water. Biofouling on vessel hulls, niche areas, pipes, and other underwater areas may spread prohibited and restricted marine species.

Biofouling is separated into types:

- Micro biofouling is caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria and diatoms creating a slime layer over surfaces immersed in water. This slime layer encourages build-up of more or different microbes.

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1. Prohibited and restricted marine species are listed in the Tasmanian Biosecurity Compendium.

- Macro biofouling is visible to the human eye and is caused by large organisms such as seaweed, barnacles, or mussels. The organisms themselves may represent a biosecurity risk, or they can serve as vectors for invasive parasites, bacteria, or viruses.

Even light biofouling creates real risks when moving vessels to new locations; more movement means more risk to Tasmania's marine biosecurity.

### **National Biofouling Management Guidelines**

developed by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry include best practices to help commercial and recreational vessel operators prevent, manage, and contain marine biosecurity risks.

## **ROUTINE VESSEL MAINTENANCE**

Vessels should be cleaned regularly. The frequency depends on boat usage, salinity, water temperature, prevailing weather, etc. Cleaning may need to take place more often if vessels are moving through areas with known marine biosecurity risks. In-water cleaning is not permitted in any ports managed by TasPorts.

### **Trailerred Vessels**

Trailerred vessels should be maintained on shore.

- Check for and remove entangled or attached biological matter from the boat and trailer (seaweed, mussels, etc.). Double bag all removed biological matter.
- Check outboard and hull fixtures for water that could harbour marine biohazards. Remember to trim the outboard down to let water out of the gearbox housing.
- Wash your boat inside and out with a mild detergent. Rinse with fresh water and drain. Allow the boat to dry if moving it to another location within 48 hours.

- Regularly remove slime from the hull to prevent the build-up of heavier secondary biofouling.
- Dispose of all (double bagged) biological matter in suitable bins or municipal landfills *so that it cannot be returned to the water, and it cannot be accessed by birds and animals*. Public rubbish bins are not an appropriate method of disposal.

### **Non-trailerred Vessels**

This applies to any vessels with raw water IWS (Internal Water Systems).

- Scrape the hull at a designated onshore facility (marina or slipway) with waste trapping facilities. Double bag any debris removed from the vessel.
- Dispose of all (double bagged) biological matter in suitable bins or municipal landfills *so that it cannot be returned to the water, and it cannot be accessed by birds and animals*. Public rubbish bins are not an appropriate method of disposal.
- Clean potential refuge spaces that could harbour marine biohazards with a mild detergent. Rinse with fresh water and allow to dry.
- Treat IWS by cleaning intake and outlet points using an approved treatment:
- When the vessel has been stationary for a long time
- Before moving vessel to a new location
- Whenever vessel is slipped
- As a preventative measure, and to keep systems clean, regularly flood IWS with fresh water or with an approved treatment.

## Hull Protection

### Cleaning

- Biological matter removed from the hull during cleaning must be contained, collected, treated and/or disposed of onshore. Marinas and slipways will have waste trapping facilities.
- If cleaning the hull elsewhere (i.e., at home), make sure you dispose of all (double bagged) biological matter in suitable bins or municipal landfills *so that it cannot be returned to the water, and it cannot be accessed by birds and animals*. Public rubbish bins are not an appropriate method of disposal.

### Antifouling Coatings

Consult antifouling coating suppliers for the most appropriate coating system for your vessel, based on vessel operating locations, vessel type and operating conditions, and vessel construction materials. **Antifouling products containing tributyltin (TB71) cannot be used in Australia.**

Antifouling products should be applied at licensed vessel maintenance facilities, complying with the *ANZECC Code of Practice for Antifouling and In-Water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance (1997)*, and with manufacturer's instructions. Coatings should be renewed according to manufacturer's *minimum* frequency recommendations.

Vessels that are immobile for long periods (i.e., moored) should be inspected prior to use. It may be necessary to clean the hull and reapply the antifouling coating before going to sea.

## Unpainted Surfaces

Surfaces that can't be painted (e.g., propellers, echo sounders) are more susceptible to biofouling and must be inspected regularly. If surfaces are fouled, biological matter should be removed, double bagged and disposed of at onshore disposal facilities *so that it cannot be returned to the water, and it cannot be accessed by birds and animals*. Public rubbish bins are not an appropriate method of disposal.

Commercially available greases or other specified coatings can be applied to surfaces such as propellers to help keep them clean.

## In-water Cleaning

There are some situations where in-water cleaning is appropriate (e.g., unpainted surfaces, niche areas) and permitted. In-water cleaning is not permitted in any ports managed by TasPorts. While it is *not* best practice – marine species removed from vessels are left at the cleaning site and may become established – if used regularly, in-water cleaning may be an effective measure to limit micro biofouling.

- Regular (6–12 monthly) in-water cleaning is recommended for propellers and may be used to manage biofouling on submerged surfaces and niche areas on vessels.
- In-water cleaning to routinely remove mature and extensive macrofouling *is not* a substitute for earlier and/or better maintenance practices.
- Cleaning must occur before leaving an invasive species management zone.

## Record keeping

Keep records of hull maintenance and antifouling coatings in the vessel's operations and maintenance manuals. Records should include antifouling product invoices (brand and type), place and date of application, date for renewal and details of any official inspection performed.

## VESSEL OPERATIONS

### Normal Deck Activities

- Clear decks and any refuge areas on deck that may harbour marine biosecurity risk material (e.g., spaces under winches and around deck fittings).
- Clean, rinse and dry mooring lines that have biofouling attached.
- Clear wraps and anchors of biological matter and mud/sand as they are hauled.
- Regularly clean anchor and chain wells and lockers.
- Ensure all equipment is checked, cleaned, and dried *before* moving through waters and *before* moving between invasive species management zones.

## Fishing Activities

- Divers should make sure that biological material entangled in dive gear is not transferred to other dive sites.
- Use locally sourced bait wherever possible to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases.
- Return bycatch to the sea as near as possible to the point of capture.
- Always allow pots and other fishing equipment to dry before using at a new location.
- Ensure all equipment is checked, cleaned, and dried *before* moving through waters and *before* moving between invasive species management zones.
- If gear is cleaned in port, biological matter should be removed, double bagged and disposed of at onshore disposal facilities *so that it cannot be returned to the water, and it cannot be accessed by birds and animals*. Public rubbish bins are not an appropriate method of disposal.
- If streaming nets behind the vessel to clean them, do so as close as possible to fishing grounds.
- Be aware that streaming of nets has the potential to move marine biosecurity risks around.
- If you know that a marine biosecurity risk is in your area, or you suspect one might be, do not stream your nets to clean them.
- Check, clean and dry the vessel and all equipment when in areas containing invasive species.
- Dry out nets regularly (or prior to transfer to another boat) to ensure living biological matter is not translocated.

## REPORTING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES

### Emergency Pest Outbreaks

If a marine biosecurity emergency<sup>2</sup> occurs, it may be necessary to report your voyage plans, or there may be restrictions to specific ports or areas. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment will notify vessel operators of any threats and restrictions. Vessel operators may be asked to help in response to an emergency marine biosecurity threat.

If a prohibited marine species is transported on your vessel or equipment into Tasmanian waters or out of a known invasive species management zone, you must report it to Biosecurity Tasmania at [BiosecurityTasmania@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:BiosecurityTasmania@nre.tas.gov.au)

### Reporting Possible Marine Biosecurity Risks

Be aware of encounters with unidentified organisms, known marine biosecurity risks or potential marine biosecurity risks, that may lead to the accidental movement of invasive species. Signs of a suspected marine biosecurity risk could include:

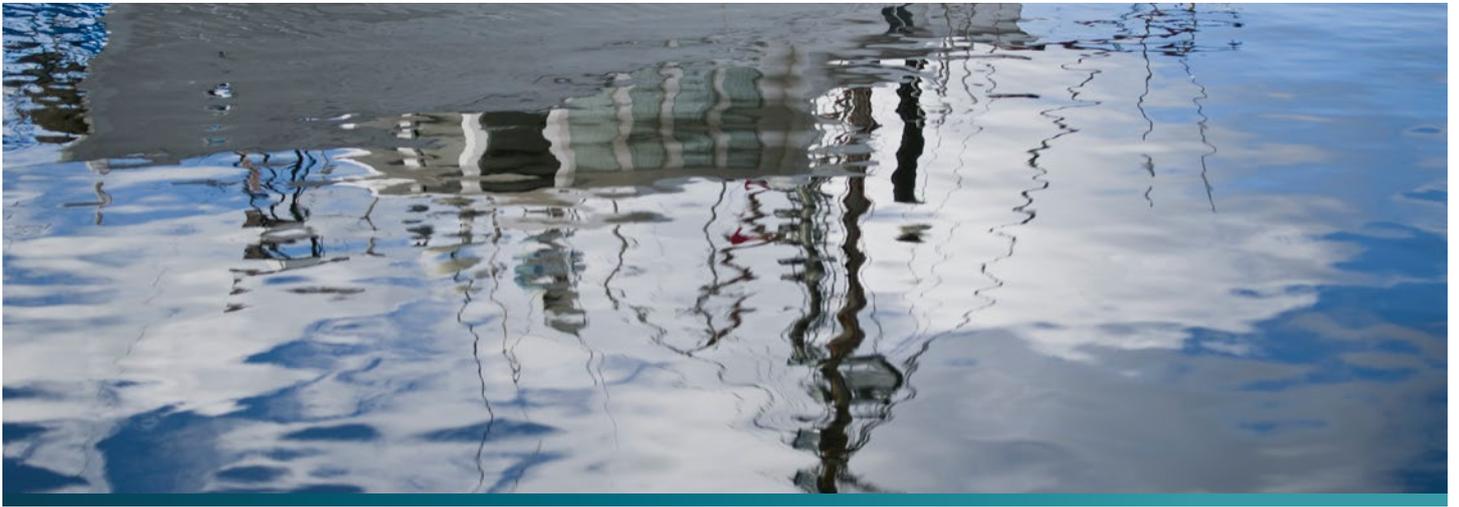
- Unusually heavy biofouling
- Dominance of biofouling by one species
- A 'new' species not seen before in your region

Report any new sightings of these species or any other unusual species to the [Biosecurity Tasmania](#) hotline (03 6165 3777). Call Biosecurity Tasmania if you are concerned about a particular species.

Be aware of potential marine biosecurity risks in your fishing grounds and minimise the risk of moving these invasive species around. If in doubt, keep a sample of the material you are concerned about. Freeze the specimen and hand it to Biosecurity Tasmania as soon as possible. If you notice a suspected outbreak in a new area, record the time, date, location, depth, and population details.

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2. A biosecurity emergency is defined under the Biosecurity Act 2019 as an emergency arising from a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.



# MARINE DEBRIS AND POLLUTION

Marine debris and pollution harms TEPS (threatened, endangered and protected species) and other marine species. All operators of commercial and recreational vessels have a legal responsibility not to pollute. [Regulations for commercial vessels operating in Tasmanian waters](#) are available online.

## OIL AND OILY MIXTURES

- Don't discharge oil or oily mixtures into the sea.
- A fishing vessel in transit may discharge oily mixtures only if the vessel uses oil filtering or separating equipment that reduces the oil content to less than 15 ppm (15 parts of oil to one million parts of water).
- Vessels without oil filtering and separation equipment need to store oily mixtures securely on board for disposal at specified port waste reception facilities.
- Reduce the risk of accidental discharges through regular maintenance of all equipment and equipment spaces.
- Report oil and oily mixture incidents (probable or actual discharges) to the Tasmanian Marine Pollution Controller using the 24-hour EPA Pollution hotline 1800-005-171.

## NOXIOUS LIQUIDS

- Don't discharge any noxious liquids, including ballast water, tank waters or other residues into the sea.
- Secure all noxious liquids on board for disposal at specified port waste reception facilities.
- Report noxious liquid incidents (probable or actual discharges) to the Tasmanian Marine Pollution Controller using the 24-hour EPA Pollution hotline 1800-005-171.

## PACKAGED HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Don't discharge or jettison any packaged harmful substances - known marine pollutants identified in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (**IMDG Code**) - into the sea.

Secure all specified harmful substances on board for disposal at specified port waste reception facilities.

Report specified harmful substance instances (probable or actual discharges) to the Tasmanian Marine Pollution Controller using the 24-hour EPA Pollution hotline 1800-005-171.

## SEWAGE

- Don't discharge sewage into the sea.
- Secure all sewage on board securely for disposal at specified port waste reception facilities.
- Report sewage discharges (probable or actual) to the Tasmanian Marine Pollution Controller using the 24-hour EPA Pollution hotline 1800-005-171.

## GARBAGE

- Don't discharge any garbage into the sea. Garbage includes all kinds of food waste, domestic waste, and operational waste. On fishing vessels, operational waste includes rope, nets, strapping, and floats.
- Secure all garbage on board for disposal at specified port waste reception facilities.
- Report garbage incidents (probable or actual) to the Tasmanian Marine Pollution Controller using the 24-hour EPA Pollution hotline 1800-005-171.



# CARING FOR COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

**Caring for marine and coastal environments will ensure all Tasmanians can enjoy these unique areas.**

## **ANCHORING AND MOORING**

- Use established and/or public moorings where possible. Do not anchor within no-anchoring areas.
- Anchor in soft sediments such as sand or mud, away from fragile marine habitats like reefs and seagrass beds.
- Leave enough swing room to avoid collision with submerged hazards or other vessels.
- If anchoring overnight, anchor BEFORE nightfall and double check swing room.
- Avoid anchor dragging by placing the anchor rather than tossing it from the boat.
- Carry enough chain and line for the depth you want to anchor in and for the environmental conditions.
- Motor towards the anchor when retrieving it to minimise dragging.

- If the anchor is caught, free it by hand wherever possible. Do not force the anchor free by motoring forward.
- If anchoring ashore, carefully place the anchor to minimise damage.

Be aware of **Tasmanian TEPS (threatened, endangered, or protected species)**.

- Don't anchor where TEPS may be encountered or affected.
- TEPS include animals *and* plants.

Be familiar with the **Shorebird and Seabird LISTmap layer** status of the foreshore.

- During bird breeding season (1st September to 31st March), avoid accessing 'red' areas, and limit coastal activities in 'yellow' areas.

Know your **legal obligations regarding TEPS**. It is illegal to kill any protected wildlife or threatened species.

## CAMPING OFF THE BOAT

- If camping off the boat, use designated camp sites wherever possible to reduce vegetation damage and disturbance to wildlife.

Be aware of **Tasmanian TEPS (threatened, endangered, or protected species)**.

- Don't camp where TEPS may be encountered or affected.
- TEPS include animals *and* plants.

Know the **Shorebird and Seabird LISTmap layer** status of the foreshore.

- During bird breeding season (1st September to 31st March), avoid accessing 'red' areas, and limit coastal activities in 'yellow' areas.

Know your **legal obligations regarding TEPS**. It is illegal to kill any protected wildlife or threatened species.

Don't tie ropes to trees or other vegetation.

Keep your campsite free of scraps and keep all food, bait, fish, fishing gear and rubbish in well-secured containers. Never tie rubbish bags in trees or on your tent.

Take all rubbish with you (including personal hygiene products) when you leave the area.

When camping in areas where water is not provided, bring enough water for all your drinking, cooking, and cleaning needs.

Don't carry plant seeds, soil or pests in footwear, clothing, boats, vehicles, and camping gear.

Use a fuel stove in preference to a camp fire.

If using a camp fire, be aware of any potential fire restrictions, particularly on reserved land. If a fire is permitted, make a fire ring, and/or use a previous fire site. Do not cut firewood or pull out plants; use only dropped / loose branches and kindling.

When toilets are unavailable, bury all waste at least 15 cm deep (50 cm in sand).

## PROTECTING OUR WILDLIFE

- Don't throw debris overboard. Dispose of rubbish in an appropriate land-based waste container so *that it cannot be returned to the water*.
- Minimise the likelihood of accidental marine risks by ensuring all boating and fishing equipment is well maintained.
- Minimise noise disturbance of wildlife.
- Never feed wildlife.

Be aware of **Tasmanian TEPS (threatened, endangered, or protected species)**.

- Don't boat or camp where TEPS may be encountered or affected.
- TEPS include animals *and* plants.

Know the **Shorebird and Seabird LISTmap layer** status of the foreshore.

- During bird breeding season (1st September to 31st March), avoid accessing 'red' areas, and limit coastal activities in 'yellow' areas.

Know your **legal obligations regarding TEPS**. It is illegal to kill any protected wildlife or threatened species.

Commercial fishers must report interactions – physical contact between TEPS and a person, vessel or gear – using the appropriate Docket. A seabird landing on rigging is not an interaction; a seabird hitting rigging and landing on the deck injured is an interaction.

If you encounter dead TEPS, report these to the NRE Threatened Species Section (**[ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au)**).

Report dead whales, dolphins, seals, and protected birds to the MCP (Marine Conservation Program) using their reporting hotline (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537).



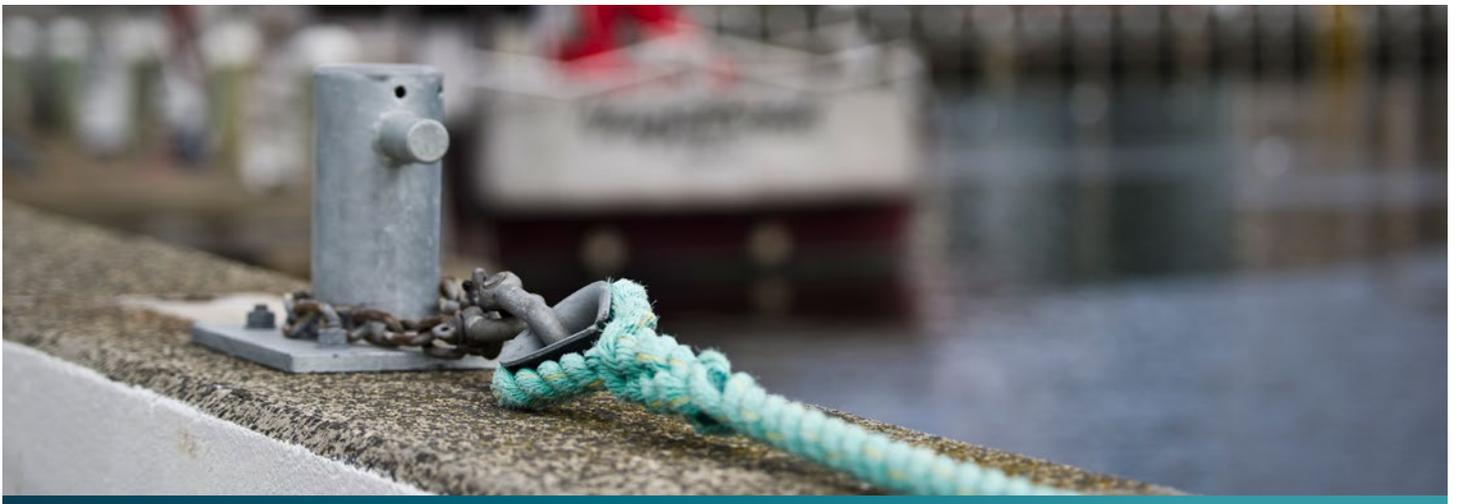
## FISH KILLS

Fish kills are characterised by a sudden and unexpectedly large number of fish dying over a very short time and in a relatively limited area. Fish kills may result from human-induced events (e.g., pollutants) or from natural events (e.g., spawning, rainfall). To minimise potential risk if there is a fish kill

**do not:**

- Touch the fish or water in the area
- Collect fish for bait or other purposes (e.g., garden fertiliser)
- Eat any fish caught in the area.

Immediately report any fish kill to the EPA Incident Response Hotline (1800 005 171) or email to [incidentresponse@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:incidentresponse@epa.tas.gov.au)



# PROTECTING SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS

Tasmania's marine mammals and seabirds are monitored and protected under the [Marine Conservation Program \(MCP\)](#). Numbers are slowly increasing from past exploitation, but recovery of these iconic species is affected by human marine activities, including commercial and recreational fishing and boating. Some seabirds, and all marine mammals, are considered TEPS (threatened, endangered, or protected species).

## MARINE MAMMALS AT SEA

### Whales and Dolphins

[Guidelines for whale and dolphin watching](#) should be observed by all commercial and recreational vessels operating in Tasmanian waters. The guidelines protect humans and preserve the health and safety of the animals. Ignoring these guidelines can be dangerous to humans and may cause physical and emotional distress to whales and dolphins, including affecting migratory and breeding patterns. The guidelines closely follow the [Australian Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2017](#).

In general, when a whale or dolphin is observed vessel operators should:

- Slow down and avoid erratic changes in speed and direction.
- Approach no closer than the distances specified for each species.
- Avoid approaching from directly in front or behind the animal.

Tasmania's guidelines define a 300m zone for whales (150m for dolphins) in which boating activity is restricted.



- Vessels may approach no closer than 100m for whales and 50m for dolphins. Whales and dolphins may choose to come closer. You do not have to move away in this circumstance, unless operating a personal motorised watercraft such as a jet ski or remotely operating craft.
- If under steam, vessels should approach no closer than 300m for whales (150m for dolphins).
- Personal motorised watercraft, including jet skis and remotely operating craft, must be no closer than 300m of whales or dolphins. If animals come closer, the vessel should slow down to a no-wake speed and move at least 300m away.
- Only move at slow speeds (no wake) in the approach zone.
- Avoid approaching in the “no approach” zone (in front or behind the animal).
- Withdraw immediately, at a slow steady pace (no wake) if the animals show any kind of distress or disturbance.
- Don’t feed or touch the animals.
- Don’t throw food or rubbish overboard. Wild animals do not need feeding. Plastics can kill through swallowing or entanglement.

- Any interactions – physical contact between TEPS, individual (person), vessel or gear – with sea mammals must be recorded and reported.
- Commercial fishers must report interactions with whales and dolphins using the appropriate Docket.

Contact the MCP (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537) with any sightings of whales or dolphins.

### Seals

Tasmania’s Department of Natural Resources and Environment has developed [seal watching guidelines](#) for safe and enjoyable seal watching.

Fast boats, noisy engines, clattering sails, and rattling anchor chains frighten seals, making them flee into the water. In breeding colonies, disturbances can cause stampedes, where pups are crushed or forced off the colony.

- When near a seal colony, lower sail or reduce speed to
- under 10 knots within 200m
- 5 knots within 100m

- Don't moor or pass closer than 100m of a seal colony during November and December, when pups are born, or within 50m at other times of the year.
- Don't swim near seals; there are often sharks nearby.
- Don't land at a seal colony. Seals can stampede; pups may be killed, drowned, or abandoned.
- Don't feed seals or discard food and rubbish overboard. Wild animals do not need feeding. Plastics can kill through swallowing or entanglements.

If you view a seal on a Tasmanian beach or coastline, leave it alone and contact the MCP, NRE (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537) or a vet. Be ready to share the location and what you notice about the seal.

## Marine Mammal Incidents

There are times when marine mammals become stranded or entangled and need human assistance. Mass strandings of whales and dolphins occur regularly in Tasmania. The MCP is very experienced in responding to such incidents and should be contacted as early as possible. Commercial fishers must report marine mammal interactions in their fishing docketts.

Strandings are time critical; contact the MCP (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537) if you find a stranded whale or dolphin (alive or dead).

Entanglements with fishing gear and other marine pollution are a concern for the health of marine mammals world-wide. Seals are frequently entangled in fishing line or netting. Without intervention, these entanglements are usually fatal. The MCP will attempt to disentangle seals to prevent a slow and painful death.

Contact the MCP (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537) if you see an entangled seal.

Whales and dolphins may also become entangled in marine debris, though this is more uncommon in Tasmania. Species most at risk are those that travel or breed close to the coast. In Tasmania, these species are the southern right whale and humpback whale.

Contact the MCP (0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537) if you see an entangled whale or dolphin. Where possible, vessel operators should monitor the entanglement from a distance until specialist teams arrive. Boaters SHOULD NOT attempt to free an entangled whale.



# BYCATCH

Bycatch occurs whenever non-targeted species are caught during normal fishing activities. Rules around bycatch vary by fishery and should be consulted by commercial fishers. In some cases, bycatch may be retained if the appropriate fishing licences are held, and the catch is within legal limits. Where bycatch is discarded, fish need to be returned to the sea as quickly and humanely as possible, and as close to their point of removal as is practicable. All bycatch needs to be noted in the vessel's logs. Risk of bycatch varies with targeted species and fishery.

Recreational fishers should use barbless hooks to increase the survival of bycatch. Discarded fish should be returned to the sea as quickly and humanely as possible, and as close to their point of removal as is practicable. Use landing nets to minimise the damage to scales, eyes, and fins. Use wet hands or wet cloth when handling fish, and hold large fish horizontally, not by the jaw or gills. It is never legal to keep fish that are outside legal limits or when a required licence is not held.

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*The Boating Code of Practice provides practical guidance on responsible boating in Tasmanian waters. It is produced by the **Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership**<sup>3</sup>, a partnership between **NRM South** and the **Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council**. The TSSP works with Tasmania's seafood industry to conserve and restore marine biodiversity in our waterways. Advise. Support. Sustain.*

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<sup>3</sup>The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment supports the TSSP through Round One of the National Landcare Program's Smart Farming Partnerships.



# THE SHORT VERSION FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERS

## MARINE SAFETY

**AMSA** (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) and **MAST** (Marine and Safety Tasmania) provide clear guidance on maritime safety for commercial vessels and recreational boaters, respectively.

If you are working on, travelling on, or servicing commercial vessels - including fishing vessels – you have a responsibility to ensure vessel and personnel safety. The **general safety duties** that apply to everyone on a vessel are listed on AMSA's website.

Marine incidents involving commercial vessels must be reported to AMSA as soon as practicable using Forms **18** and **19**. These can be completed online or sent by email ([reports@amsa.gov.au](mailto:reports@amsa.gov.au)).

## MARINE BIOSECURITY RISKS

Under Tasmania's General Biosecurity Duty (GBD), all Tasmanians have a Duty of Care to take *all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks*. As a commercial fisher, measures you should take include:

- Keep your boat's hull, trailer, decks, equipment, internal water systems, engine, and mooring clear of biofouling to minimise biosecurity risks.
- Record all maintenance undertaken on your vessel.
- Ensure all equipment is checked, cleaned, and dried *before* moving through waters and *before* moving between invasive species management zones.
- Report any biosecurity risks to the Biosecurity Tasmania hotline (03 6165 3777).

## MARINE DEBRIS AND POLLUTION

Marine debris and pollution can seriously harm marine species, including those species that are threatened, endangered and protected (TEPS). All vessel operators have a legal responsibility not to pollute through discharge, discard, or jettison.

Contact the 24-hour EPA hotline (1800 005 171) to report probable or actual marine debris or pollution, including oil and oily mixtures, noxious liquids, sewage, and garbage.

## CARING FOR COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

All Tasmanians have a Duty of Care for our unique coastal and marine ecosystems, including the species living in those environments. Commercial fishers can minimise impact by:

- careful anchoring or mooring
- avoiding damaging trees and vegetation during land activities
- avoiding all wildlife, especially during breeding season
- removing all rubbish and marine debris and disposing of it responsibly
- reporting all

dead or injured TEPS to the MCP (**Marine Conservation Program**) on 0427 942 537

fish kills (large numbers of dead fish in a small area) to the EPA Hotline (1800 005 171)

## PROTECTING SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS

Tasmania's marine mammals and seabirds are monitored and protected under the MCP. Commercial fishers have a responsibility to care for these iconic species.

Know what to do when marine mammals are present. In general, slow down, avoid erratic changes in speed and direction, approach no closer than allowed, and avoid approaching from directly in front or behind.

Report any sightings, including strandings and entanglements, to the MCP (0427 942 537). Never attempt to untangle any marine mammals yourself.

## BYCATCH

Bycatch occurs whenever non-targeted species are caught during normal fishing activities.

Rules around bycatch vary by fishery and should be consulted by commercial fishers. In some cases, bycatch may be retained if the appropriate fishing licences are held, and if the catch is within legal limits.

If you are discarding bycatch, return the fish to the sea as quickly and humanely as possible, and as close to their point of removal as is practicable. All bycatch needs to be noted in the vessel's logs.

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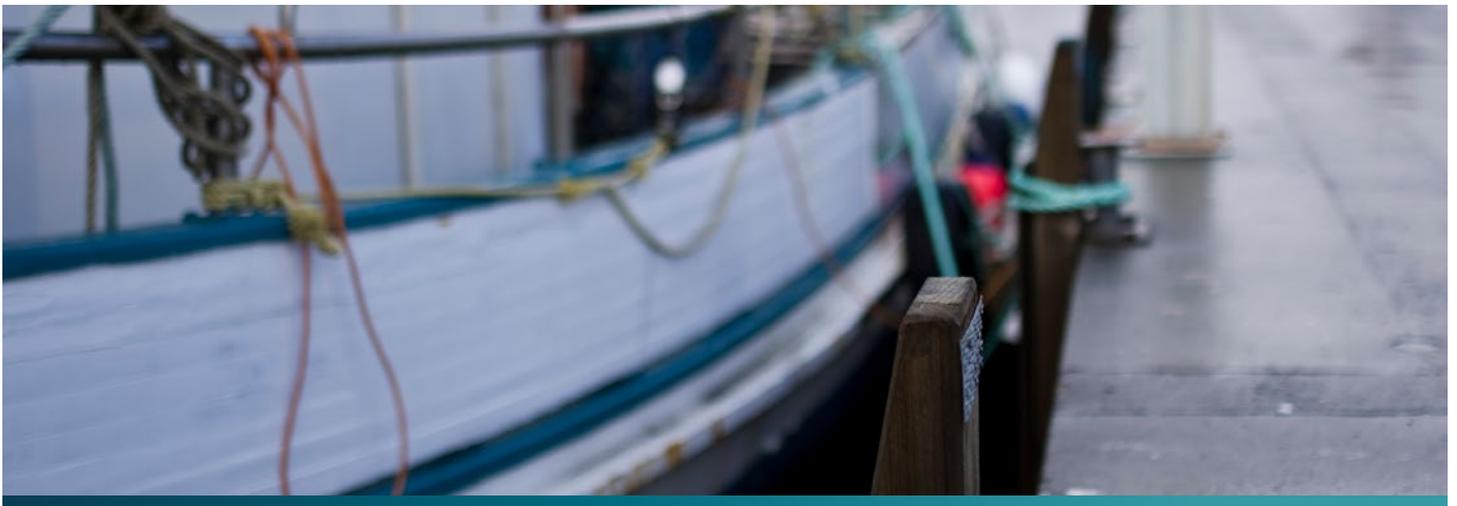
*The Boating Code of Practice provides practical guidance on responsible boating in Tasmanian waters. It is produced by the **Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership**<sup>4</sup>, a partnership between **NRM South** and the **Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council**. The TSSP works with Tasmania's seafood industry to conserve and restore marine biodiversity in our waterways. Advise. Support. Sustain.*

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4. The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment supports the TSSP through Round One of the National Landcare Program's Smart Farming Partnerships.



Scan the QR code(s) for more information



# THE SHORT VERSION FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

## MARINE SAFETY

All recreational boat operators need to be familiar with Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) rules and regulations, which provide clear guidance on maritime safety.

Marine incidents involving recreational vessels in Tasmanian waters must be reported to MAST as soon as practicable (telephone – 1300 135 513; email – [admin@mast.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@mast.tas.gov.au)). An Incident Report form must also be completed and lodged with MAST for all incidents involving recreational vessels.

## MARINE BIOSECURITY RISKS

Under Tasmania's General Biosecurity Duty (GBD), all Tasmanians have a Duty of Care to take *all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks*. Penalties apply for breaches of the GBD.

Recreational boaters have an important role to play in reducing marine biosecurity risks in Tasmania. Most risk material is spread through untreated discharged ballast water and through biofouling – the growth of bacteria or larger organisms such as seaweed - on vessel hulls, niche areas and pipes, and other underwater areas.

Keep your boat's hull, trailer, internal water systems, engine, and mooring clear of biofouling through regular cleaning and maintenance. Biosecurity risks must be reported to the Biosecurity Tasmania hotline (03 6165 3777).

## MARINE DEBRIS AND POLLUTION

Marine debris and pollution can seriously harm Tasmania's marine species, including those species that are threatened, endangered and protected (TEPS). As a recreational boater, you have a legal responsibility not to pollute through discharge, discard, or jettison.

Contact the 24-hour EPA hotline (1800 005 171) to report probable or actual marine debris or pollution.

## CARING FOR COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

All Tasmanians have a Duty of Care for our unique coastal and marine ecosystems, including the species living in those environments. Recreational boat operators can minimise their impact by:

- careful anchoring or mooring
- avoiding damaging vegetation during land activities
- avoiding all wildlife, especially during breeding season
- removing all rubbish and marine debris and disposing of it responsibly
- reporting all

dead or injured TEPS to the MCP (**Marine Conservation Program**) on 0427 942 537

fish kills (large numbers of dead fish in a small area) to the EPA Hotline (1800 005 171)

## PROTECTING SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS

Tasmania's marine mammals and seabirds are monitored and protected under the MCP. We all have a responsibility to care for these iconic species.

Know what to do when you are on the water and encounter marine mammals. In general, slow down, avoid erratic changes in speed and direction, approach no closer than allowed, and avoid approaching from directly in front or behind.

Report any sightings, including strandings and entanglements, to the MCP (0427 942 537). Never attempt to untangle any marine mammals yourself.

## BYCATCH

Bycatch occurs whenever non-targeted species are caught during normal fishing activities. Recreational fishers should use barbless hooks to increase the survival of bycatch. Return discarded fish to the sea as quickly and humanely as possible, and as close to their point of removal as is practicable. Use landing nets to minimise the damage to scales, eyes, and fins. Use wet hands or wet cloth when handling fish, and hold large fish horizontally, not by the jaw or gills. It is never legal to keep fish that are outside legal limits or when a required licence is not held.

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*The Boating Code of Practice provides practical guidance on responsible boating in Tasmanian waters. It is produced by the **Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership**<sup>5</sup>, a partnership between **NRM South** and the **Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council**. The TSSP works with Tasmania's seafood industry to conserve and restore marine biodiversity in our waterways. Advise. Support. Sustain.*

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Scan the QR code(s) for more information



# KEY MESSAGES

## You have a duty of care to the environment and to your passengers and crew

- Know how to reduce marine biosecurity risks
- Keep your boat safe and well maintained
- Don't release debris or pollution overboard
- Avoid interacting with seabirds or marine mammals
- Minimise bycatch
- Report any incidents or concerns

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