



AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL  
FISHING FOUNDATION

MEDIA RELEASE

## Southern Blue Fin Tuna

The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) is the national organisation representing the interests of Australia’s recreational fishing community. ARFF’s members and supporters represent the estimated 5 million Australians who fish Australian waters and generate an estimated \$10 billion annually in economic contribution for our local, regional and national economies. ARFF is calling for any decision about the management of the recreational SBT fishery to be put on hold until the current education project, economic survey and catch estimate surveys are completed.

ARFF Chairman, Mr Brett Cleary said, “We have been contacted by concerned fishers and our members regarding reports of potential dramatic changes to the recreational management of Southern Blue Fin Tuna (SBT) in some states”

“ARFF have for several years been involved in robust discussion to secure a premier SBT fishery for all Australian recreational fishers “he said.

“Our priority is to support rebuilding the stock of this iconic species from a very low base. We are concerned that political posturing may impact on stock recovery and enhanced fishing opportunities this recovery will provide into the future” Mr Cleary said.

ARFF and its members work with all stakeholders in the SBT fishery and are currently aware of and involved in a number of SBT projects including surveys, education and research on recreational fishing for SBT.

ARFF has recently partnered in an education and research program on the recreational SBT fishery titled ‘The role of recreational fisher in the stewardship of the SBT fishery with the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

In response to fisher concern and robust discussion on this complex issue ARFF will be holding a series of meetings in key areas to brief and support our fishers. The first session is planned for Victoria on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Media contacts

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ARFF MEMBERS

