



## Media Release - 14 May 2020

### Preservation of status quo for Southern Bluefin Tuna fishing

ANSA is delighted to learn of today's announcement by the Commonwealth Government's Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Senator Jonathon Duntiam, that there will be no changes to the Commonwealth regulations for recreational fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Today's announcement follows on from the preliminary release of the National recreational catch survey of Southern Blue fin Tuna by world leading experts from the University of Tasmania and many years of advocacy and negotiation by the National recreational fishing peak body, the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) and its member bodies including ANSA in terms of reaching an equitable and sensible agreement with the government and the commercial sector for sharing and managing this very iconic fishery.

ANSA spokesperson Mr John Burgess said that today's announcement was a great result for recreational fishers and a validation of the hard work put in by ARFF members over so many years and a willingness by the Australian government to work collectively with recreational fishers for the public good and sound management of the highly valued SBT fishery.

Senator Duntiam also acknowledged the valuable role played by the Tuna Champions in encouraging responsible fishing by the recreational sector with many fishers releasing their SBT captures and keeping only what they needed for a feed.

Very significantly there were no new fishing restrictions or requirement by the government for there to be changes to SBT state bag and size limits or the allocation of the recreational fishing share of the SBT global catch between states. A win for common sense.

This decision to maintain the status quo will assist the rebuild of SBT stocks for future generations of recreational fishers to enjoy and to establish a practical foundation for future resource sharing challenges.

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