



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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- Senator Richard Colbeck welcomes efforts to consult with recreational fishers in managing fisheries in Tasmania
- The arrival of “new” species, such as kingfish in Tasmanian waters represents new opportunities for recreational fishers
- Regional variance in key catches, particularly rock lobster, present challenges for regulators in the future

The North West Recreational Fisheries Public Forum held last night at the Devonport Yacht Club was an opportunity for around 65 interested recreational fishers, DPIPWE fishery managers and IMAS fisheries scientists to come together to discuss key challenges and opportunities for the industry.

Former Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries Senator Richard Colbeck said the Forum was an excellent initiative that brought all sides of the industry together to discuss the future of fishing in Tasmania and that it was great to see such a good attendance.

“With around 92,000 recreational fishers in Tasmania this is a significant part of people’s lives and we are focussed on maintaining a proactive approach to consulting with stakeholders to manage change.”

“With warmer waters being brought by the East Australian Current we are seeing an increasing prevalence of “new” species for Tasmanians, like kingfish and snapper for example, that are proving to be a major source of interest for fishing families,” Senator Colbeck said.

“But we also may have to consider how we adapt our management strategy around existing fisheries like rock lobster that have come under pressure in recent times on the East, North and West Coasts.”

Senator Colbeck said that while Australian fisheries are some of the best managed in the world it is important that we remain vigilant so that no fish stock in Tasmania is “loved to death”.

With IMAS scientists like Senior Marine Research Scientist Dr Jeremy Lyle, Lecturer Dr James Haddy, PhD student Curtis Champion and DPIPWE Recreational Fisheries Manager Rod Pearn, the fishing community of the NorthWest were given the opportunity to consult with some of the leading scientists involved in fisheries research in Tasmania.

There was also a reminder that Australia’s world class data driven approach to fisheries management relies on samples collected from commercial and recreational fishers, with a particular focus at the Forum on species such as King George whiting during this April spawning season.

“It is good to see collaboration between both commercial and recreational fishers with researchers,” Senator Colbeck said.

“At a Federal and State level the Coalition/Liberal governments are keenly focussed on ensuring this important industry continues to maintain its high level of sustainability and sound management,” Senator Colbeck said.

“This is why it is vital that we all work cooperatively and openly together to preserve this key part of the Tasmanian way of life”.

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