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Tasmanian recreational fishers have contributed to an IMAS study of the potential ecological impacts of a salmon escape event in May 2018, when severe storms damaged salmon farming infrastructure off the east coast of Bruny Island.

Led by Associate Professor Jeremy Lyle, [the IMAS study released today](#) drew on the experiences of recreational fishers to examine the dynamics of dispersal, survival and possible impacts of the 120,000 escaped Atlantic Salmon.

"More than 120 recreational fishers provided information about the locations, dates and numbers of Atlantic salmon caught," Associate Professor Lyle said.

"This information was used to map the dispersal of escapees from the farm site over time.

"The escape event attracted significant interest from recreational fishers, and while dispersal was rapid it appeared to be largely restricted to south-eastern Tasmania and to within the general Storm Bay region, including associated bays and tributaries.

"Recreational fishers were primarily motivated to fish for the escapees to take

“But the willingness of so many fishers to provide details of their catches meant that we’re now in a better position to understand the impact of these events,” he said.

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