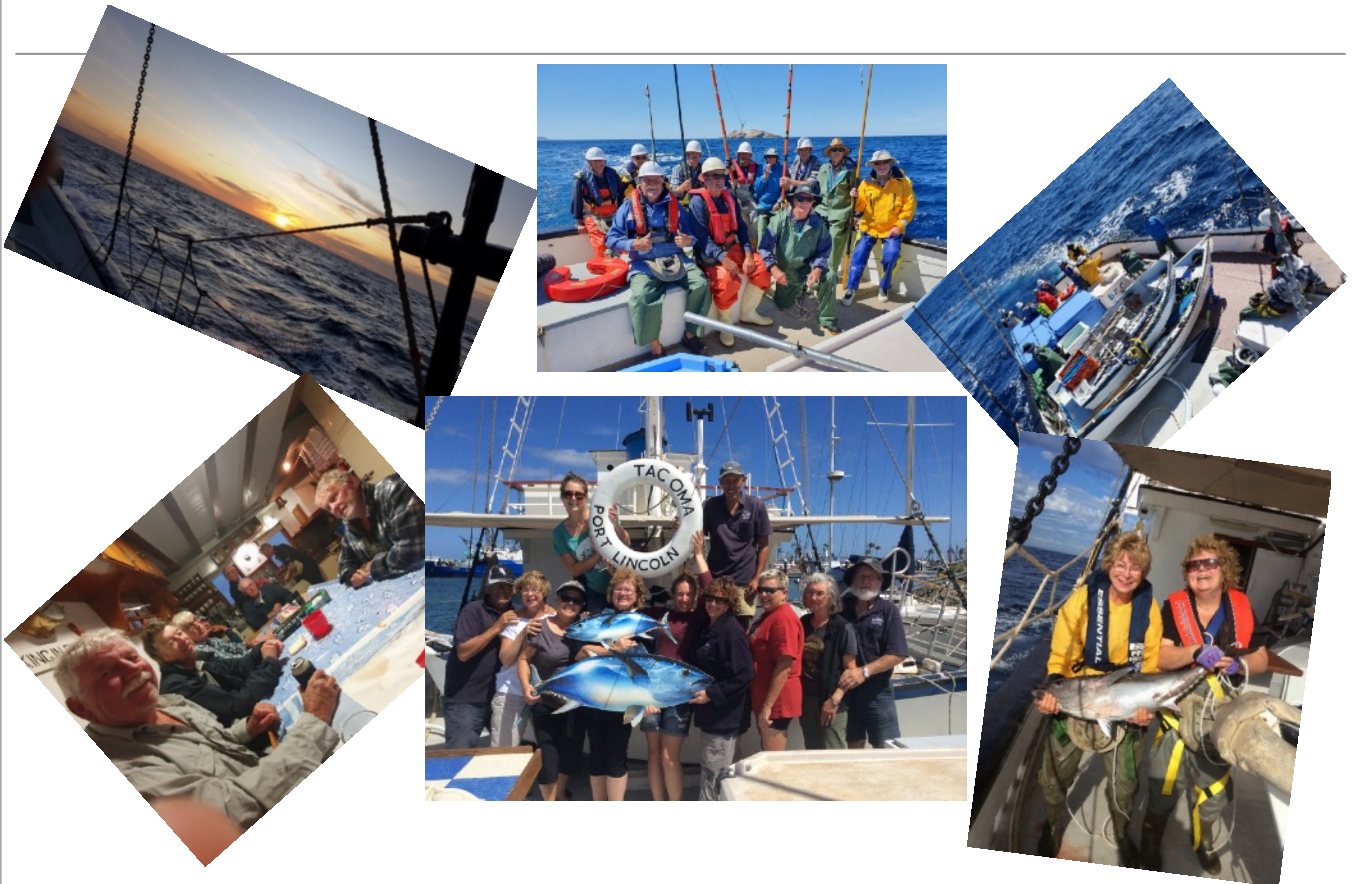


TACOMA

Newsletter

www.tacoma.org.au | Tacoma Preservation Society | Port Lincoln

Join the Tacoma crew and make
memories.



2026 tuna trips see www.Tacoma.org.
for booking details.

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“New” Toilet Bowl

Tacoma was built when toilet plumbing fixtures in plastic were rare, but over time they have replaced original fixtures made of wood and copper. So, we reintroduce a little character back into the boat by replacing the plastic hand bowl in the toilet with a copper one. We had removed an old copper water heater in the galley. Our resident sheet metal worker, Greg, crafted a fine-looking new copper basin.



Tuna Fishing on Tacoma



World Tuna Day



Canned tuna has been a great ally in our pantries around the world. Tuna is rich in Omega-3 and it also contains minerals, proteins, and vitamin B12, among other advantages. Because of its qualities, the tuna became over exploited. Nine years ago, the UN General Assembly designated May 2 as World Tuna Day to highlight the importance of sustainable tuna fishing. Progress has been made. In 2017, 75% of the tuna came from sustainable stocks. Today, the figure exceeds 90%. Atlantic Bluefin tuna, once absent from European coastal waters, are now common in the North Sea and inner Scandinavian waters. This recovery was achieved through government regulations involving five tuna regional fisheries supported by the FAO-led Common Oceans Program.

Smoked Tuna

The next batch of smoked tuna is ready for the tasting platter. This year we are planning to smoke four batches, allowing the product to be available throughout the year. We have put aside eighteen fish with four fish per batch. The belly will be "hot smoked" because of its higher fat content while the rest will "cold smoked". Both products are ideal for a nibbles plate accompanied by a glass of wine. The products are available from the Tacoma's store. Just email tacoma.org@gmail.com or call 0476173860.



Old Crow's Nest



World Tuna Day continued...

The fisheries adopted sustainable management procedures through cooperation between scientists, managers, and fishers. So, we promoted world tuna day Friday, May 2, in our local pond, by activating all our outlets of Tacoma tuna plus a media blitz. The Port Lincoln Times ran a small piece while the ABC added the story on morning radio with a follow up on drive home radio. Gastronomically, we promoted the day at Fumos restaurant in the company of Mayor Diana Mislov.



Bluefin tuna jumping in the sound in front of Elsinore Castle.

Wedge Island Rescue

Captain's report: When Tacoma was on her way to Taylor Island to deliver water, we received a radio call that a sailing yacht had capsized with four onboard at Wedge Island. All were reported safe, but the boat was on the beach. Tacoma would be free to undertake a salvage attempt on the next day. On Saturday noon, we headed off to the Wedge. Unfortunately, the boat had not capsized on the homestead beach but to the north, which had little shore break, shallow water, and a fringing reef. It was a tricky place to end up on the shore. At dusk we had attached a long rope to a 20 ft abalone boat and on our first attempt, the rope parted. Tacoma anchored for the night. The next morning, a low tide and a persistent shore brake made a repeated attempt impossible. The marooned boat crew was then airlifted to Port Lincoln and arrived home before Tacoma. Sometimes things do not go to plan and the beached boat is still high and dry awaiting a tow off.



Songs of the Sea Salt Festival 2025

After returning from a sardine industry exchange trip to Cornwall, our Tacoma deck boss Claire Webber suggested we nominate to do a gig during the salt festival. So, we needed three groups of local talent to sing songs about canning salmon, about pilchards, and a male voice with an authentic Jordy accent to sing "Who will get the fishy when the boat comes in?" And not forgetting the required lead, a Shanty Man. The Shanty Man is the key to all shanty singing. The crowd just needs to throw in a 'heave away' or a 'trularr' for dramatic effect. Kev, Mike, Carin, and Vicki were contacted to head up their respective groups. The organisers needed to produce a song sheet, then a power point with the right words, plus a few clips from YouTube to display on the night. Well, the tasks sounded easy...On the night, a crowd of near 150 gathered at the Jump Ship Brewing for our first crack at the singing and music. The Tacoma team knows a lot about painting boats, fixing engines, and rowing, but a night of music turned out to be a challenge! With the help of Ian Doyle as MC, Peter Jessop and a patient crowd, the night went off without a hitch. The last song, "What shall we do with the drunken sailor," tested the roof fastenings and a great night was had by all. The big question is, will we do it next year?



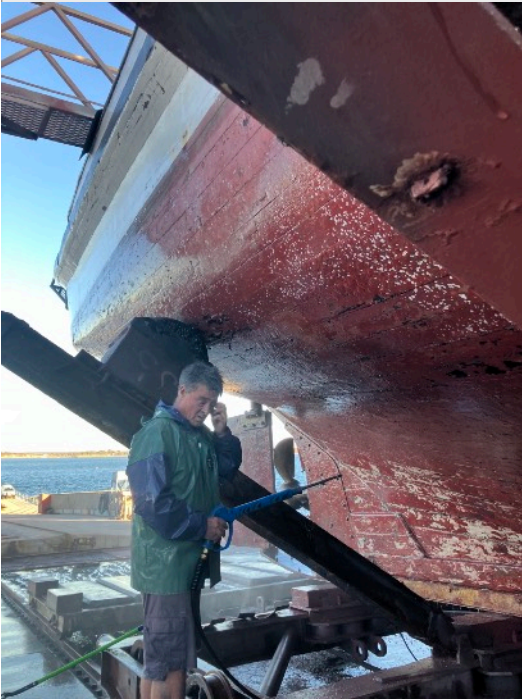
MC Ian Doyle and Peter Jessop preparing to sing The Tasmanian Crayfish Song.

New Crow's Nest

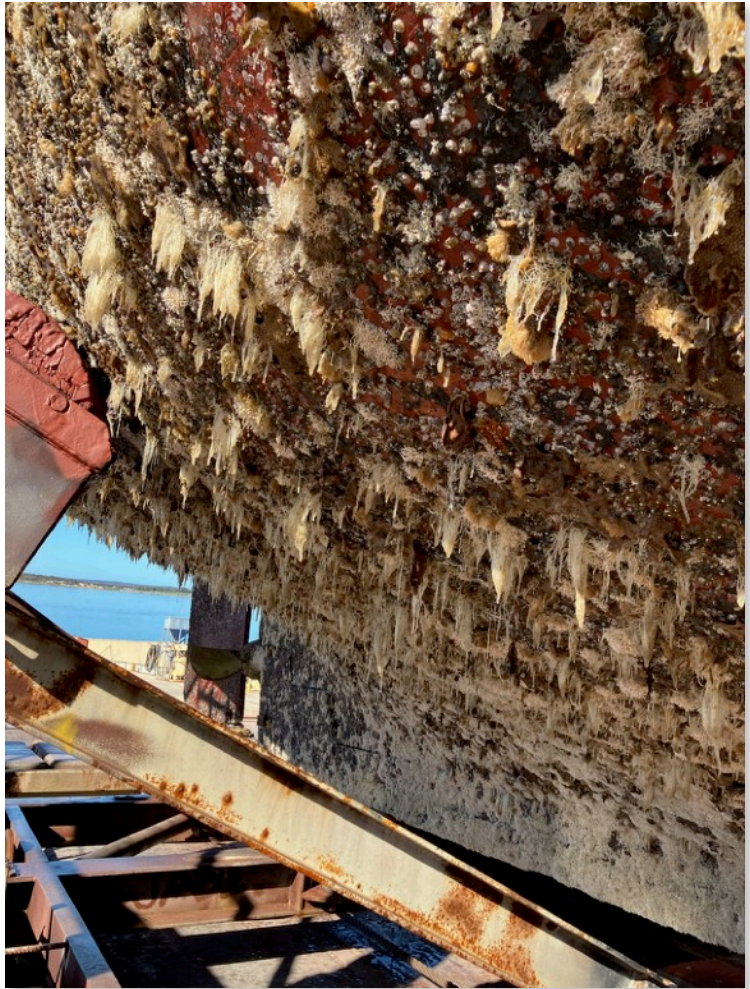
One project for our winter lay off is to build a new crow's nest. It will be the third in Tacoma's 72 years of life as a fish spotting platform. The original was removed when Tacoma was converted to a prawn trawler. A second one was built by Robin Haldane when the mast was extended eight feet to return the vessel to its original tuna-fishing configuration. Today it is showing signs of decay, after being exposed to the elements for thirteen years. Despite several coats of paint, the timber shows signs of freshwater rot. The plan is to get a "sky hook" to unbolt the existing one while removing the ladder, then gently dropping the crow's nest onto the dock. Easy said, but there will always be a bolt that wants to hold things up. Remember, it's a long way up there. Is there anyone who's got a riggers ticket?



Tacoma Slipping



Tacoma Slipping



The bridge and the deck had the feeling that the bottom of the Tacoma was soon to be declared a national marine park as a part of “The Great Southern Reef” because our speed at full throttle had decreased, and the barnacles along the waterline were being eyed off by the chef from a local seafood establishment. So, Monday morning, after Mother’s Day, we were off to the slip, facing the inevitability of hard days working with water jets to clean Tacoma’s hull below the waterline. Once the team had clear-felled a forest of hydroids, what was left was a field of sharp encrusting barnacles. So, the next day was spent removing these feisty characters. Tacoma is slipped in a two-year cycle interspersed with an in-water survey and an out of water check. New anodes are made, and the seacocks removed for inspection. The slipping teams are usually made up of an inside and hull team. After four hard days, Tacoma was slipped into Boston Bay to check the seacocks and any potential leaks. A quick speed trial made sure the last four days were not in vain. A speed of nine knots was a pleasant experience after just seven knots, with full throttle before we removed the “Great Southern Reef” below.