



*Fishing for the Future*

PO BOX 3013 Warner QLD 4500  
www.sunfishqld.com.au

Phone (07) 3882 4518  
ABN 26 590 693 754

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ANGLERS IN THE NORTH MISS OUT

Mr. John Crone OAM, Chairman of Sunfish Qld. said that the announcement to stop the take of bream, whiting and flathead in commercial nets in marine park conservation zones (yellow areas) is a sensible move, but does not go far enough. The announcement regarding the Moreton Bay Marine Park almost three years ago that all forms of commercial net fishing would be stopped in the Park yellow zones, providing for enhanced recreational fishing experiences was very good news for the recreational fishing sector as it was seen as an important offset for the loss of recreational fishing areas due to the 16% green zone declaration.

Allowing the use of 400 metres of small mesh nets in these areas has been a loophole which has been exploited by some commercial fishers right along the Queensland coastline. It was allowing the take of common species such as bream, whiting, flathead in the south east and many other species along the coast for sale as well as meshing undersize fish he said. Commercial fishermen have already received a compensation payment from the rezoning of Moreton Bay Marine Park so no additional recompense in this case is warranted.

Mr. David Bateman AM Deputy Chairman of Sunfish Qld said that this "grey area" had been exploited ever since the declaration of the state marine parks following the GBRMPA rezoning and perpetuated by Queensland Fisheries legislation in spite of repeated requests from Sunfish to have it changed. These areas are right along the east coast and particularly apply to Moreton and Hervey Bay as well as sensitive inshore areas in the north. Unfortunately, this legislation only excludes bream, whiting and flathead which have little or no benefit to anglers further north. We need Fisheries Qld to regulate bait species. This would then allow for uniformity across the state and completely close the loophole.

The removal of these environmentally destructive nets from protected conservation areas was a Labor election promise during the last election 3 years ago. It is time for us to see the value of these inshore fish nursery and conservation areas finally being recognized Mr. Crone said. This is what happens when marine parks is involved in fisheries management, two departments working at cross purposes with recreational anglers being the losers

**Contact points** Mr. David Bateman 38804261  
Mrs. Judy Lynne 38824518

**9 December 2011**

Judy Lynne  
*Executive Officer*  
**Sunfish Queensland Inc**

Ph 07 3882 4518  
Fax 07 3882 5680  
Mob 0409 056 437  
[www.sunfishqld.com.au](http://www.sunfishqld.com.au)

*Representing the interests of Recreational Fishing*