

SUNFISH FRASER COAST



www.sunfish.com.au

P.O. Box 5164
Torquay Qld. 4655
(07) 41280700

Ph.:
A.B.N.: 32 587 780 659
E-mail: secretary@sunfish.com.au
Chairman: **Mr Scott Mitchell**
Secretary: **Mr. Martin Bellert**

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MEDIA RELEASE –

FRASER BIO REGION

Sunfish Fraser Coast has been working closely with the recreational angling community in relation to the proposed Fraser Bio Region. After several public meetings & consultation with the Tin Can Bay Fishing Club, Queensland Seafood Industry Association, Marine Queensland, the Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce, Tin Can Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Hervey Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Scott Mitchell Chairman Fraser Coast Sunfish said " Sunfish Fraser Coast has arrived at the following position: -

- **Sunfish Fraser Coast does not support any restriction to recreational angling access west of the 200-metre depth line (just beyond the continental shelf). This area is of significant importance to the recreational angling community & all of the businesses that rely upon them.**
- **Recreational fishing has been determined to have negligible or no impact on most habitats (low on tropical reefs and temperate corals and sponges). Recreational fishing has also been determined to have negligible or no impact on most species (medium on deepwater demersals**
- **Sunfish Fraser Coast believes this proposal has the potential to substantially restrict an important & valuable recreational fishery. If access is reduced in the proposed area it will have a profound impact on the local economies in the surrounding communities that rely heavily of recreational angling. This will affect not only the large proportion of local anglers – but also those who travel from all over the state & in many cases interstate to fish this important region.**
- **Recreational fishing in the proposed area contributes significant economic and social value to the surrounding communities of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Poona, Tuan, Boonaroo, Hervey Bay and the flow on effect to other centres by way of bait and tackle suppliers, fuel, groceries, general supply industry, accommodation, real estate, tourism etc."**

Enquiries further information

**CONTACT SCOTT MITCHELL 0428484499
MARTIN BELLERT 41280700**