



SUNFISH FRASER COAST

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OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Sunfish Fraser Coast – Chairman’s Report 2010

How time flies – apparently it’s been twelve months since I accepted the position of Chairman for the Fraser Coast branch of Sunfish!

Firstly I would like to start by thanking Ray Ozich for his tireless contributions in the past & wish him & his family well with their big move back over the border for the future – Don’t forget to buy your license Ray !

Ray continues to contribute through the snapper management committee & is still active on the technical working group I believe. The snapper issue is going to be very important over the next twelve months & we will need to on our game to stay in front of QF’s propaganda campaign or risk being restricted with more closed seasons based on dodgy data in future!

I must also say I am pleased to see the change in opinion over a general recreational angling licence issue amongst the Sunfish ranks. It is obvious that QF & the current state government are not going to be in a position to enhance recreational angling in future & I truly believe the only way the recreational angling community will take true ownership is via a general recreational angling licence – based along the lines of the NSW system. This is to say ALL of the monies raised go into designated trust accounts (Fresh & Saltwater) and the current SIP’s scheme would become a part of this with an initial contribution of say \$1million to kick off the freshwater trust & remaining monies to go towards the saltwater trust. We would also want the current PPV levy dropped as well. Expenditure committee’s made up from key anglers from across the state would be in charge of allocating expense priorities & establishing key area’s to be made recreational only area’s – where ALL commercial effort would be brought out using funds raised via the new license system. The commercial sector would also need to be zoned prior to this process being implemented – of course!

We need to thank Chris jab’s web design service for taking the web site to the next level this year with prompt service & innovative design. Our viewer numbers have increased dramatically along with community recognition for the work our branch carries out. With Chris’s continued support we should see the web site support it’s elf over the next twelve months under our new advertising scheme as well.

A HUGE thanks to all involved with the successful Kids fishing clinics – these are always very popular & well received. It is hoped that these kids will continue to fish & shape recreational angling in the future. The senior’s clinics are also incredibly popular with so many coming to our region to retire & enjoy the amazingly diverse fishing Hervey Bay has to offer. This is again the reason the area should become a recreational angling heaven – and ALL the commercial fishing should be removed from the Great Sandy Straights. These

clinics are only made possibly with the addition of our successful funding applications & our members who support them.

There have been some positive steps made in relation to boat ramp improvement in the region with Maritime Safety Queensland engaging GHD to conduct a survey on Recreational Boating Facilities & Demand Forecasting Study. This is to look at future Boat Ramps and infrastructure for the next 10 years – so hopefully we won't be waiting that long to see the results !

With Lake Lenthall spilling more often than not since the wall was raised it has become even more important to get the new fish way on No 1 weir finalised. This issue needs to be followed through to ensure fish that do escape over the wall can migrate back upstream when needed & ensure a healthy fishery remains in the Burrum River.

It will be interesting to see what happens once know who is governing our country in relation to the Marine Protected Areas issues. We need to ensure we maintain our position on these areas's & ensure that no further access to recreational angling is lost – again without scientific reason!

I sometimes wonder if all our efforts are worthwhile & how much easier it would be to just go fishing now – while we still can. BUT who would ensure our kids & their grand kids will be able to enjoy all the aspects that make recreational angling one of the most popular & healthy sports on our great planet?

Thanks to our committee & in particular our secretary – Marty, you truly are an asset to Sunfish & anglers in our area. To our members – thank you for your continued support & efforts to ensure we all enjoy our fishing in the future.

So many Fish – So little Time!

SCOTT MITCHELL

USE OF ECO-LANDING NETS

An incident happened where anglers were noticed by a Fishcare volunteer using a Eco Landing Net to scoop "Jelly Prawns" a favourite bait for some species I have been told in a Salt Water environment..

Rumours have been running wild that these nets were illegal .

To clarify this point for everyone Eco Landing Nets are legal to use to "assist in the landing of a fish".

If a net is used to Scoop for prawns the mesh must be 1 " or 25 mm or bigger in Salt Water. This means use of Eco Style Landing Nets as Scoop nets in Salt Water is illegal.

In Fresh Water it must have a mesh no bigger than 1" or 25mm.

This means you can use a Eco Style Landing Net in Fresh Water if its other dimensions comply with Fishery Regulations.

SEE QLD. REGS BELOW FOR SALT AND FRESH WATER.

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28_3045.htm

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28_3023.htm

SUNFISH QUEENSLAND INC MEDIA RELEASE, 4 October 2010

Line Only Fishing for Mackerel in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Sunfish Queensland has requested the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments to phase out net fishing for all mackerel species in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Sunfish members in Central and North Queensland say that the situation has now become intolerable.

Conflicts between mackerel line fishers, both recreational and commercial, and net fishers are escalating, particularly as the numbers of licenced power boats continue to increase rapidly with an associated escalation in the numbers of fishing trips per year by recreational fishers in boats within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Many accessible inshore fishing areas for mackerel are spoilt by net fishing activities resulting in the need for line fishers to travel greater distances to off shore areas. The Queensland Government fishery management agency has attempted to resolve these problems and associated conflicts, but unfortunately this has been unsuccessful. Mackerel net fishers continue to operate in close proximity to popular line fishing areas, resulting in major, ongoing and escalating conflicts in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park..

Mackerel net fishers in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area continue to take and interfere with protected species such as turtles, dolphins and dugongs. This results in adverse public reactions throughout Australia, and criticisms on all forms of fishing, and puts all forms of fishing within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area in a bad light.

Localised depletions of mackerel aggregations by net fishers within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are common and of major concern to line fishers. Stage 2 of the review of the East Coast Finfish Fishery in Queensland has failed to deliver any satisfactory outcomes in relation to the problems associated with net fishing for mackerel in the regions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area. Many stakeholders, not just recreational fishers are frustrated by the inability of Stage 2 to address this major issue.

Supplies of fresh mackerel can be provided to the trade in North and Central Queensland by commercial line fishers. A substantial commercial line fishery for mackerel already exists in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which provides a superior quality product for the local trade. Commercial line fishing for mackerel has been shown to operate in harmony with recreational fishing in this region.

A recent meeting of all the members of Sunfish Queensland unanimously agreed that:

- 1. Recreational and commercial fishing for mackerel in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area should only be allowed by using lines.**
- 2. Net fishing for all mackerel species in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area should be phased out over the next 5 years.**
- 3. Sunfish and its member bodies will cooperate with the Queensland and Australian Governments and all other stakeholders to achieve these outcomes.**

SUNFISH FRASER COAST UPDATES

- FUNDING SECURED FOR 3 LIFE STYLE KIDS FISHING DAYS
- WEB PAGE UP AND RUNNING WITH HIGH HIT RATES AND POSITIVE FEED BACK. SHORTLY SALES OF SPONSORSHIP SPACE WILL START AND IT IS HOPED THE REVENUE FROM THIS WILL PAY THE BRANCH'S OPERATIONAL EXPENSES
- CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ONGOING SAGA OF AN ALL TIDE ALL WEATHER BOAT RAMP AT BURRUM HEADS.
- STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY CLOSURES TO RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE PROPOSED AREAS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMONWEALTH OFFSHORE FROM FRASER ISLAND.
- ONGOING CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT SUNFISH QUEENSLAND REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE ALL MACKEREL FISHING IN THE GBRMPA, A LINE FISHERY ONLY.
- IN THE ENSUING YEAR THE BRANCH HOPES TO SECURE FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE FREE CLINICS FOR RETIREES AND OLDER PERSONS.
- THE BRANCH ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE HERVEY BAY R.S.L. IN MAKING AVAILABLE EACH MONTHS ROOMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.
- EARLIER IN THE YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO ADD ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO THE ANGLER EDUCATION TRAILER TO MAKE IT MORE EFFICIENT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CLINICS. ADDITIONAL STORAGE SHELVING WAS PURCHASED FOR THE STORAGE SHED.
- THE BRANCH ALONG WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY IS CONTINUING TO PRESS WIDE BAY WATER TO CONSTRUCT A WORKING FISH WAY ON NO 1 DAM ON THE BURRUM RIVER.

DONT FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2010

HERVEY BAY R.S.L. CLUB COMMENCING AT 7 PM