

# SUNFISH FRASER COAST



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**Chairman: Mr Scott Mitchell**  
**Secretary: Mr. Martin Bellert**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **No Fees, Meeting Cancelled. But What About The Snapper?**

Fisheries Qld have advised that the future meetings to discuss Snapper Management have been cancelled.

Meetings were to be held in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay this coming week to explain the proposals in the Regulatory Impact Statement [RIS].

One part of the proposed management arrangements was the \$90 fee for anglers to catch a snapper. The new Minister for Fisheries Craig Wallace expressed concerns about the proposed fees and has decided to withdraw that part of the proposed management rules.

Scott Mitchell Chairman Fraser Coast Sunfish said "This was a sensible approach and I'm sure all Recreational Fishers who catch Snapper will be pleased with the Minister's announcement. It is good to finally see a minister who is listening to the average angler and is not afraid to say 'Hey we made a mistake but we are going to fix it.'"

"There are many anglers who would support a General Recreational fishing licence as long as it was reasonably priced and all revenue went to benefit recreational fishing, but this one-off \$90 fee to catch one fish was exorbitant and simply another tax grab."

Recreational anglers are still confused as to what was going to happen next. All the rest of the proposed changes in the Regulatory Impact Statement, such as changes to the bag limits and closures, are still in the proposals and Options for new regulations.

Mr Mitchell stated "Closing date for the responses is 8<sup>th</sup> April and as far as we have been informed, that is still the case. Without the public meetings some anglers in this region are concerned that their voice and access to the fisheries managers has been cut short. They still have a lot of questions about how the new rules will hurt their pastime and the local recreational fishing industry."

Mr Mitchell hopes the new minister will continue showing an interest in the future of recreational fishing for snapper, and not simply cancel the public meetings while still proceeding with the changes to the rules.

"I urge anglers to get a copy of the proposed changes and make sure they put in a response to ensure that recreational fishing does not get short-changed. If any anglers want to discuss the issues further they are most welcome to contact Sunfish Fraser Coast on 41280700." Mr Mitchell concluded.

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