

SUNFISH FRASER COAST



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MEDIA RELEASE

Sunfish Fraser Coast: Position on the East marine Bio-Region [Fraser Area]

The Fraser Area for Further Assessment of the East Marine Bioregion runs down the outside of Fraser Island from about the Maheno wreck to Double Island Point, starting at the eastern edge of State waters [approximately 3 N miles offshore] and extending to about 70 to 80 N miles offshore [about twice as far out as the continental shelf]

Sunfish Fraser Coast has the following concerns:

- Sunfish Fraser Coast does not support the proposed bio-region based on current information supplied by DEWHA.
- The implied or associated proposal to make all or part of the area a "green zone" is rejected as there is no scientific information to suggest that type of management is necessary in this region.
- Sunfish Fraser Coast believes this proposal has the potential to substantially restrict a huge recreational fishery. If access is reduced in the proposed area it will have a profound impact on the local economies in the surrounding communities. 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.
- Sunfish Fraser Coast is opposed to the proposal on the grounds that recreational fishing is already excluded from large areas of the GBRMPA, Great Sandy Marine Park and Moreton Bay Marine Park.
- Recreational fishing in the proposed area contributes significant economic and social value to the surrounding communities of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Poona, Tuan, Boonooroo, 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.
- Sunfish Fraser Coast is deeply suspicious of the "consultation process". The current methodology of government consultation is **'we go out and consult with everyone'** while the major of outcomes have already been set. A few "prized stakeholders" are the only ones really considered, and the only acknowledgement to recreational fishing is minor tweaking and meaningless adjustments.
- Sunfish Fraser Coast acknowledges the potential impacts of the proposal on both the Commercial & recreational fishing sectors in this area. Early discussions indicate that there is little conflict between these and the charter sector using the area currently.

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