

Submission  
No 1002

## INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

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# Fishing for

[www.sunfishqld.com.au](http://www.sunfishqld.com.au)

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**SUNFISH QLD  
SUBMISSION  
TO  
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECREATIONAL FISHING**

**INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING MARCH 2010**



Representing the interests of  
Recreational Fishing

## Introduction

SUNFISH Queensland represents approximately 45,000 members & the interests of the 750,000 recreational fishers resident in the state. In doing so it makes recommendations which affect the additional 200,000 tourist anglers many from New South Wales who visit Queensland every year to enjoy our fishing opportunities. Many of our members fish in the waters immediately adjacent to the Qld NSW Border & holiday in fishing regions in NSW. These anglers are subject to NSW fishing regulations including the requirement to obtain & pay for a NSW Recreational Fishing License. These anglers who are members of SUNFISH have little opportunity to participate in the general discussions on angling through the various NSW committees & have asked SUNFISH to represent their thoughts to the Inquiry.

Matters for consideration.

### 1. Angler representation in NSW.

It would be an advantage if there was a State wide representative angling body in NSW funded in a similar way to SUNFISH by Fisheries that we as an organisation could contact on relevant matters. The funding could come from the license fees some of which is paid by Queenslanders.

*Recommendation.*

- a. *Establish & fund a truly representative recreational fishing body in NSW.*
- b. *Establish a "high level" representative stakeholder advisory body to the Minister.*

### 2. Consistent regulations

Many of our anglers fish in NSW & find the different sizes, bag limits & gear restrictions on the same species confusing & I am sure this exists both ways.

*Recommendation.*

*Consistent sizes & limits be negotiated between the Qld & NSW Fisheries regulators on cross border species.*

### 3. Regulatory reform.

All stakeholders should be included in regulatory reform discussions including Queensland anglers who are paying license fees to fish NSW waters.

*Recommendation*

*Consultation & advisory bodies be formed with representatives of all stakeholders.*

### 4. Electric winches

With existing catch limits there is no need to ban this type of apparatus. Queensland boats leaving a Qld ramp will have this apparatus on board & it is not illegal in Queensland.



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*Recommendation.*

*Electric winches not be banned.*

5. Recreational fishing be recognised

Recreational fishing should be recognised as a major socio economic contributor to the state economy & seriously considered in all resource sharing decisions by the NSW government.

*Recommendation*

*Recreational fishing has equal value in resource sharing arrangements.*

6. Loss of access be considered for compensation.

There is an increasing trend for Governments to reallocate marine areas for other uses & this is done because there is no property to purchase & hence no cost. All reallocations benefit someone to the detriment of the current user.

*Recommendation*

*Where a recreational fishing area is reallocated without consent to another user then some form of compensate should be paid to ensure no net loss of fishing opportunity eg, artificial reefs, fishing platforms.*

7. Marine Parks Moratorium

Marine parks have been created in the past decade without reliable scientific research to justify their creation.

*Recommendation*

*a. No further MP's be created without independent scientific justification & impact assessments*

*b. Existing controversial MP's be independently reassessed as to their effectiveness.*

*c. Zoning be simplified & assessed for suitability*

8. RFH's be expanded

There should be more commercial effort removed to establish RFH's & expand some of the existing ones to compensate for angler's loss of fishing areas.

*Recommendation*

*Create new RFH's & expand existing ones.*

9. Reduce latent commercial fishing effort

Latent effort exists in all the commercial fisheries & this should be minimised as in Qld by a "Use it or lose it policy" with a minimum effort requirement over the past 3 years.



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*Recommendation*

*Cancel all underused commercial fishing licenses.*

10. Research to be expanded

Research into common recreational species is urgently needed along with assessments of the relative importance of species to each sector.

*Recommendation.*

*Research funding be provided from the license monies for these assessments*

11. Education to be expanded

An expanded education program needs to be initiated to reach primarily the younger groups in our society.

*Recommendation*

*An angler education program similar to Queensland be introduced & funded from License monies.*

Regards

Judy Lynne  
*Executive Officer*  
SUNFISH Queensland Inc

**Fishing For The Future**



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