



SUNFISH QUEENSLAND INC

Tuesday 14 December 2010

Recreational fishers astonished by Snapper management proposals

Sunfish, the peak organisation representing recreational fishing in Queensland is astonished by the proposals released today by Minister Mulherin for the management of Snapper and other rocky reef fish species.

The Minister claims that the Snapper stock in Queensland is reduced to “35% of its unfished level”. However the independent scientific review of Snapper stocks initiated by the Minister found that there is insufficient data to determine the exact status of Snapper stocks.

The Minister did not mention the 2003 management review which reduced the Snapper bag limit to 5 per person, and increased the minimum size of Snapper to 35cm – which enables Snapper to spawn for two years before they are taken. The Minister also failed to acknowledge the importance of the recent marine park green zones which act as vast sanctuaries for fish stocks such as Snapper in the Moreton region where Snapper fishing is most heavily concentrated.

The Chairman of Sunfish, Dr Barry Pollock, said that Snapper anglers had provided advice at public meetings and to Sunfish that their Snapper catches were not in decline and large Snapper in the range 7-9kg were common.

Dr Pollock said that Sunfish fully supported healthy and sustainable fish stocks. However restrictions such as seasonal closures to completely stop Snapper fishing, and compulsory licences and logbooks for Snapper anglers are not necessary and opposed by Sunfish.

Sunfish has a major concern that the Minister would announce that the Queensland Snapper stock is depleted when the scientific basis for such a determination is questionable. Statements like this give a false impression and put recreational fishing in a bad light.

Dr Barry Pollock
Chairman
Sunfish Queensland
Tele 07 33989306