



Queensland Inc.

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2nd September 2008

**SUNFISH QUEENSLAND SUBMISSION TO
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment ,Communications & the Arts
on
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK & OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2008.**

Sunfish Qld (inc) would like to raise concerns over the proposed increased powers of the GBRMPA contained in this amendment.

In particular we consider the change to the definition of “fishing” which could be misused if someone is “considered” guilty of an offence such as “searching” if they

- have any fishing equipment on board when traversing “closed areas”
- have any fishing equipment on board when anchored in any “closed area”.

If equipment is “stowed & secured” then there should be no offence.

Another area of concern is the increasing use of the precautionary principle to enact changes primarily to fishing activities where there is a lack of information. This will happen with the change of the objective of the GBRMPA to “Protection of the GBR” subject to the principles of ESD of which the precautionary principle is one.

In other forums the precautionary principle has been grossly misused to avoid research being done or as an excuse for lack of responsible planning by an agency.

Both of these if used correctly are not a concern but to us it seems that it is an unwanted expansion of the definition of powers which could remove the burden of proof from the enforcers to the person or action being executed.

This not only changes the responsibilities but also entails a substantial cost to a private person or organization if there is an objection to a decision made on this basis.

Yours Faithfully

David Bateman AM, Executive Officer, SUNFISH Qld