

7 March 2008

MBMP Draft Zoning Plan
Environmental Protection Agency
Via e-mail to:

moreton.bay@epa.qld.gov.au

Australian National Sportfishing Association (Qld. Branch) Inc. - Submission to Moreton Bay Marine Park Draft Rezoning Plan

This submission is made on behalf of the members of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) (Queensland Branch) Incorporated.

ANSA (Qld) Inc. is a member of the Moreton Bay Access Alliance. ANSA (Qld) Inc's submission comprises this letter and the attached report titled:

"Part 2 - Final Submission: A Participatory and Coordinated Fishing Industry Response to the Proposed Rezoning of the Moreton Bay Marine Park".

It also refers to and includes the first stage of the MBAA research which has already been presented to the EPA titled:

"A Participatory and Coordinated Fishing Industry Response to the Proposed Rezoning of the Moreton Bay Marine Park". This report was presented to EPA prior to the release of their Draft Zoning Plan and is referred to in the second report.

The MBAA submission is fully supported by ANSA (Qld) Inc. and should be read in conjunction with this submission.

ANSA (Qld) Inc Membership

ANSA (Qld) Inc currently has 1500 members. ANSA (Qld) Inc has member clubs in the region of the Moreton Bay Marine Park including:

- ? Gold Coast Sportfishing Club.
- ? Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club
- ? Brisbane Sportfishing Club.
- ? Ipswich United Sportfishing Club.
- ? North Brisbane Sportfishing Club.
- ? Bribie Island Sportfishing Club.

ANSA (Qld) Inc submission on the MBMP rezoning 2008.

- ? Sunshine Coast Sportfishing Club.

All of the above member clubs are very active in boating and fishing pursuits, are regular users of the Moreton Bay Marine Park, and have for many years contributed to valuable fisheries research within the MBMP through tag and release of important recreational angling species. Therefore, they stand to lose significant access as a result of this rezoning.

ANSA (Qld) Inc supports the proposals set out in the attached report prepared by the MBAA's independent scientific team.

Impacts on ANSA (Qld) Members and recreational fishers in this area flows onto local community and economy

The MBAA research highlighted the fact that the \$ impact on the recreational sector as a result of the proposed zoning arrangements is in the vicinity of \$48 million per annum. ANSA (Qld) Inc is very concerned about the potential impact on recreational angling if the changes proposed by the MBAA are not adopted.

Our members have confirmed that a significant number of the proposed green zones are in areas that they frequently access, and therefore will have a very high impact on their preferred recreational use of the MBMP.

ANSA (Qld) Inc strongly supports the MBAA submission on the following zones in the MBMP:

- ? Pumicestone Passage – no extension to the green zone beyond the boundaries proposed by the MBAA. We question whether there is a need to zone all of Pumicestone Passage yellow as it is believed there is sufficient protection for this area under the Fisheries regulations.
- ? MNP14 – Middle Moreton Bay – an area we refer to as “The Paddock” and again, it is critical to remain open for pelagic fishing (mostly lure-casting and trolling). A risk assessment shows that lure-casting and trolling would have no or negligible impact on the identified values in this area. Changing the zoning of this area from green to olive, with appropriate provisions allow that type of fishing, would still afford the area “highly protected” status and would minimise impacts on recreational fishing.
- ? MNP17 – St Helena Island – the eastern side should remain open as it is in no way in pristine condition due to extensive mining, and it is an important recreational fishing area that is close to the western side of the bay. Already there is more inshore rocky reef protected than recommended by science.
- ? MNP18 – Flat Rock – again, allowing pelagic fishing in this area would not detract from the identified values in any way and it should be zoned olive to minimise impact on fishing.
- ? MNP19 – Wanga Wallen Banks – the MBAA alternative will provide far greater protection to dugongs and is strongly supported by ANSA (Qld) Inc.
- ? MNP22 – Peel Island. The alteration to the green zone boundary will have a dramatic effect on fishing on the most popular and productive north-western side of the Island. The EPA statement that the zone has not been significantly increased to minimise impacts demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the fact that most fishing in this area occurs adjacent to the

reef drop-off just outside the existing MP boundary, and the result will be that this side of the island will be destroyed as a fishing location if EPA's proposal proceeds. In fact, it could be said that the small gain in green zone proposed in this location will have the maximum possible negative effect on users, which is in direct contravention of one of the EPA's guiding principles. The statement that making the boundary a straight line between beacons will assist interpretation and compliance also demonstrates a lack of understanding of practical on-water navigation from small craft, and will in fact make the actual boundary harder to be sure of for anglers, whereas it is currently easily located with sounders and visually. The MBAA proposal that this area remains unchanged from the green zone that has been in existence for many years is strongly supported.

- ? MNP23 – Cox Bank – again the MBAA alternative proposal achieves better environmental outcomes whilst keeping important fishing and bait gathering locations open.
- ? MNP27 – Pannikin Island. The MBAA proposal to reduce this proposed GZ to the Pannikin Island itself, with the boundary being the mangrove line, is strongly supported.
- ? MNP30 – Swan Bay/Never Never Ck – ANSA (Qld) Inc. supports the MBAA proposal to excise the Never Never Ck area from the proposed GZ.
- ? Scotts Point at Redcliffe. This is an important tagging site for our members, and is one of the most important land based fisheries along the Redcliffe Peninsula, particularly in Winter months. It has been a popular fishing site for as long as angling has occurred in this region and there is no noticeable impact on the area from fishing. We strongly support the MBAA proposal to site the green zone around Redcliffe Point instead of Scotts Point.
- ? Cherubs/Hendersons Rock – ANSA (Qld) Inc strongly supports the MBAA proposed GZ for this region. It is an area of high value to recreational anglers, and the majority of fishing that occurs in this area is drift fishing, or trolling for pelagics. This activity has minimal impact on the environment, and should be allowed to continue in the area outside the MBAA proposed boundaries.

ANSA (Qld) Inc is committed to ensuring a sustainable future for the MBMP and at the same time ensuring that unnecessary negative impacts are minimised. We believe that the MBAA submission will achieve these outcomes and trust that the comments above reinforce the need for changes to the draft proposed by the EPA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information before developing a final position on the new MBMP zoning arrangements.

sincerely,

Jeff Sorrell
On behalf of the members of the
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