

# Conservationists urge co-operation on zoning

By OLIVIA KATTER

THE North Queensland Conservation Council has called on recreational anglers to co-operate with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to increase the number of no-take zones.

Council co-ordinator James McLellan acknowledged fishing was a legitimate use of the marine environment but said it should not occur everywhere.

"Recreational fishing is not a benign activity," Mr McLellan said.

"While one fisherman may only catch a few fish, there are thousands of recreational fishers on the reef."

Mr McLellan said anglers would find it more productive to help GBRMPA establish further green zones.

Sunfish North



James McLellan

Queensland chairman Brian Pickup said recreational anglers had co-operated with GBRMPA.

"We're saying there are better ways to manage the park than locking it up," he said.

Mr Pickup said that after last Thursday's mass gathering of recreational anglers in Townsville, the Rec-

reational Enthusiasts Against Closures Totally (REACT) executive would now discuss the next move.

A GBRMPA authority spokesman said people peddling misinformation and using scare tactics at last week's rally were doing themselves a disservice.

"Some individuals are willing to say anything," the spokesman said.

He said he had been part of the six-week consultation process, during which people had been "very enthusiastic" about the green zone proposals.

"We just want them to tell us where they fish so we don't put green zones in those areas," he said. The spokesman said 19,500 submission brochures had been handed out. Submissions must be returned by August 7.