



Media Release

Anglers Action Group

(Sydney Northside) Inc
PO Box 630 Narrabeen NSW 2101
aagfish@gmail.com

Media Release: 9th December 2008

For immediate release: **Sydney's marine park: protecting mermaids**

In a response to Professor Bob Kearney's criticisms of the lack of science used in NSW marine parks, Professor David Booth, chair of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science's Scientific Committee, said "There appear to be a lot of charlatans in this debate. If you want sensible comment about marine biological issues, you should go to professional marine biologists. If not, comments should be taken with a grain of salt."

Clover Moore, Member for Bligh, in her web page "Marine Park for Sydney" dated 17th October 2008 and as part of the justification for a marine park in the Hawkesbury Bioshelf, stated: "Species that urgently need protection in the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion include the grey nurse shark, estuary cod and the woody sea dragon."

There are two types of sea dragons in Australia's southern waters, being the leafy sea dragon and the more common weedy sea dragon. There is no such species called the woody sea dragon, and one never existed in Australian waters.

AAG President Phil Ingram comments: "This statement is typical of those that have little or no knowledge of marine species, the marine environment and ecosystems, but are merely mouthpieces for other organisations. I would like Ms Moore to tell me how can you justify a marine park for the protection of an animal that doesn't exist? Professor Booth is right, we have to take what Ms Moore and others say with a grain of salt."

Phil continued: "It's like creating a mark for the protection of the mermaid! We agree with Professor Booth's comments. The debate for marine parks should be ruled more by science rather than rhetoric and unfounded statements."

Contact: Phil Ingram 0431282267