



Media release

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Fishing champion awarded for eco-efforts

Central Queenslander Bill Sawynok has been honoured with an international award for his efforts to promote conservation in recreational fishing.

Mr Sawynok received the Conservation Award from the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) on January 24 in recognition of his efforts to support sustainable fishing.

Mr Sawynok said that as far as he was aware he was the first Australian to win the award.

“The IGFA is probably the most respected international recreational fishing body in the world and it certainly is an honour to be recognised by such an organisation,” he said.

Mr Sawynok is an Australian representative of the IGFA, but the award is not limited to members and may be awarded to both groups and individuals.

Among his many achievements, Mr Sawynok is involved with Suntag, the Released Fish Survival Program, and also manages CapReef, a community based monitoring program involving recreational fishers.

CapReef receives funding from natural resource management group Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) to coordinate the monitoring of the effects of management measures, habitat modification, water regulation and climate change on fish resources in Central Queensland.

CapReef data collection methods include a Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) of fish in different habitats, fish tagging to monitor growth and movement, regular surveys of local fishers, and linking with research projects and dive surveys.

FBA Chief Executive Officer Suzie Christensen said Bill, a former long standing FBA board member, was a tireless worker and deserving of the award.

“Bill has been a champion of the recreational fishing industry for many years, and his community driven research is providing valuable information. Programs such as Suntag and promotion of safe fish release are helping to ensure the sustainability of fishing for generations to come. I offer Bill FBA’s heartfelt congratulations,” she said.

Mr Sawynok was nominated for the award by Neil Patrick of Halco Lures from Western Australia, who accepted the award on his behalf at the 25th IGFA Auction and Banquet in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For further information or interviews:

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