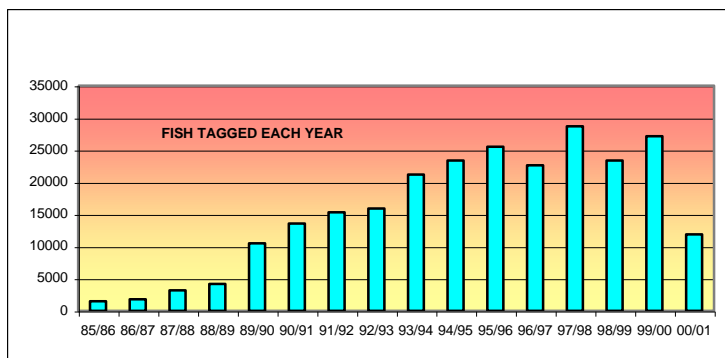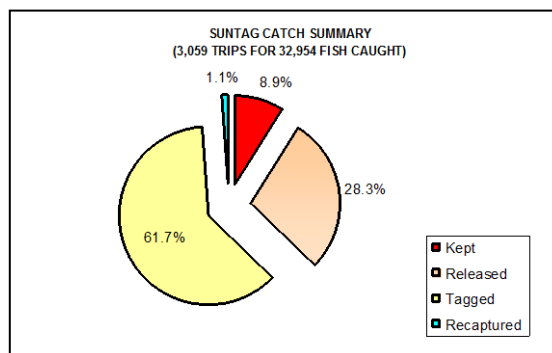# SUNTAG NEWS 34
28 March 2001

250,000 fish tagged!

Suntag has passed another important milestone with the entry of the **250,000**th tagged fish into the Suntag database. That has been accomplished in 14 years from 1987 when ANSA Qld took over the management of the Recreational Sportfish Tagging program as Suntag was known then. At that time there were about 1,500 fish being tagged a year. If we had maintained that level of tagging it would have taken over 150 years to reach this milestone. Now there are over 20,000 fish tagged per year with 26,826 in 1999/2000.

Suntag is now recognised as an important program in the collection of data on key recreational species. Suntag is not just a database for ANSA tagging. Data from most Qld Fisheries Services (QFS) recent research projects is also stored with Suntag. Catch and effort data for ANSA Qld members has also been collected since 1996.
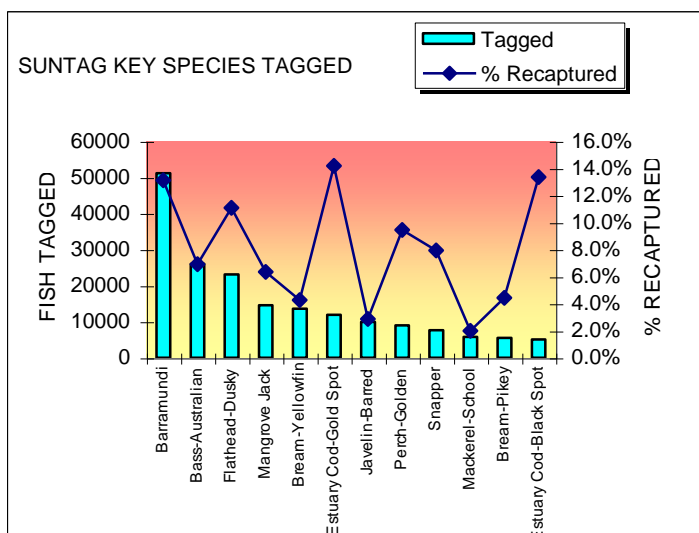
Suntag is a good example of government working with the community in a way that produces results way beyond the dollars invested. A recent analysis showed that for every $1 provided by QFS in the last 5 years a further $11.60 has been invested in Suntag. Much of that comes from the in kind voluntary effort contributed by ANSA members in getting out there and tagging fish and the maintenance of the program's infrastructure
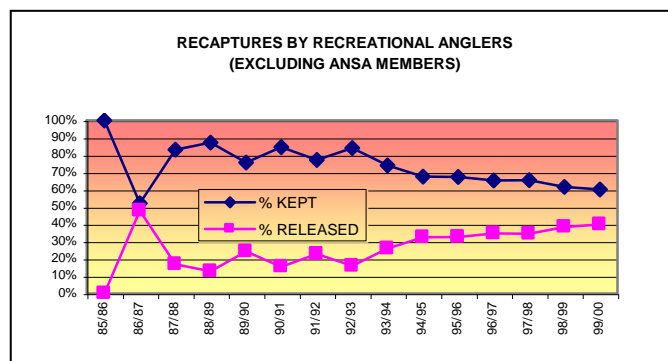

Fish tagged each year

Summary of Trip data for Suntag taggers

Fish tagged and recapture rates for key species

Trend towards catch and release by average fishers