

17/5/2020

Submission to the Inquiry relating to the Treaty on Migratory Species

I am a member of the public with an interest in conservation, including as a keen watcher of nature documentaries with my family. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is a critical treaty on protecting the Earth's ecosystems and natural heritage. The addition of more species makes sense as more species are identified in needing protection.

Of the additional species that are within Australia's range, I understand the Australian Government is accepting treaty obligations to the protection of the Antipodean Albatross and the Oceanic White-tip Shark, while lodging reservations for the Smooth Hammerhead Shark and the Tote Shark. For the former, the National Interest Analysis (NIA) states their protection aligns with Australian national interest in the "international protection and conservation of migratory species." The reservations given for the latter two species seem reasonable given existing conservation practices and a commitment to the principles of the treaty. It also seems like there was good consultation between the government and fishery and environmental groups. As stated in the NIA, The Australian Government "supports conservation efforts" and will "continue to cooperate in international efforts," including under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

Conservation and protection of animal species is important. Species protection is not simply about the individual animal, but about upholding a complex and interconnected ecosystem. The loss of one animal could have ramifications for other species, which underlines the importance of species protection. Migratory species may contribute to multiple ecosystems, while also being exposed to greater threats during their travel. Moreover, the nature of migratory species travelling jurisdictions can cause confusion about which country has responsibility for their protection, or how to do so. Thus, there is a need for the international community to cooperate and work together on migratory species protection, as I am glad to see Australia is doing with this treaty and additional species. The threat of species extinction is exacerbated by the threat of climate change, which could damage or reduce habitable areas for some species or affect their migration routes. Species protection will thus be incredibly important in the coming decades to preserve as much as we can.

I appreciate the work of the Australian Government on this issue.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.