



ABN 17 073 020 014

SONACOM Pty Ltd  
Level 6, 15 Young St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

GPO Box 3207  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Tel: (61 2) 9247-8560  
Fax: (61 2) 9251-1146

17 October, 2000

Dr John Carter  
Sectional Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**REF: Inquiry into Coastwatch**

Dear Dr Carter

In response to your letter to VADM Don Chalmers dated 21 September 2000, on behalf of Sonacom Pty Ltd I submit the following comment.

Sonacom's acoustic technology cannot detect sail-powered Type 2 fishing boats if they are operating without mechanical equipment such as motors, compressors or generators. However, Sonacom believes that it is highly likely that their shark fishing activities can be detected.

Most Type 2 vessels traditionally use a *shark rattle* to attract sharks. The *shark rattle* is a handmade device made from coconut shells that is banged together in the water to attract sharks. The distinctive acoustic noise produced by this action can also be picked up and monitored by the Sonacom acoustic sensors. Strategically placed buoys could identify the location of shark fishing activities and whether or not they are within the agreed traditional fishing areas as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Sonacom understands that Type 3 vessels are also acting illegally in Australian waters, and causing damage. We believe that the Sonacom technology can easily detect the mechanical noises made by these vessels.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Clarke  
Managing Director