

**SUBMISSION NO.10**  
**TT 25 & 26 November 2009**

14/01/10

Phillip Partington

Regarding: Short Fin Mako Shark fishing ban.

To whom it may concern,

As a taxpayer and voter, I am writing to you to complain about the impending ban of fishing for and the taking of Mako Sharks within the confines of Australian Commonwealth waters.

Fishing is a very healthy and relaxing pastime that I regularly enjoy participating in with both my family and friends. We all consider ourselves as "anglers" rather than fishing people, and as such, we all practise "catch and release" more often than not; with the odd suitable fish taken home for a fresh feed occasionally.

All of my fishing acquaintances; both amateur and professional anglers are concerned for the environment especially the oceans and bays that provide us with so much enjoyment. We pay licence and registration fees for boats, trailers, vehicles, air travel and licences to fish (multiple licences to fish interstate.) Not to mention the additional indirect expenses generated in the community such as fuel, food, accommodation and the likes of fishing tackle. As such we deserve better treatment from elected government representatives ( notably MP Peter Garrett and MP Tony Burke.)

The lack of consultation involving the voting public, amateur anglers and the professional fishing fraternity, the timing of the announcement and minimal publicity of the announcement with regards to Mr. Peter Garrett's decision to ban fishing for Mako Shark's and two other species of sharks in all Commonwealth waters, is bordering on deceitful and undemocratic at best.

Along the Victorian coastline there are only two species of "game fish" available for sport fishing purposes. They are seasonal visitors to our waters; that being the short fin Mako Shark in Summer months and the Southern Bluefin Tuna in Autumn/ Winter.

I occasionally keep a smallish specimen of either species for the table if required. I practise "catch and release" more often than not. Due to the sometimes dangerous and difficult to access waters where these fish are located, I utilise the knowledge and equipment of recognised and licensed charter operators in Victoria to pursue these fish and occasionally my own private boat.

What is to become of Victoria's charter operator's if fishing for Short fin mako's is banned? Are they to sell their boats and join the unemployment queue? What is next to be banned in Commonwealth waters? Amateur fishing for Southern Blue fin Tuna? I am very concerned indeed. I am very concerned about these issues and for my freedom of choice in the future to be able to pursue my favourite pastime when, where and how I choose; within reason of course.

I believe that there are over four million amateur fisherpeople in Australia, a huge percentage of that number will be tax payers and voters and like myself, I am sure that unless the current Australian Federal Government doesn't reverse its decision to ban Mako shark fishing by amateurs, I will not be voting for the Labour party at a State or federal election in the future. I will be personally taking it on myself to continue to make my fellow

anglers, friends, relatives, associates and anyone else who cares to know about these issues that affect all Victorians and all Australians upto and beyond the next federal election.

I request that you either acknowledge receipt of this email and my personal concerns therein this email; either by returning an email to the addresses listed below by post to my private address above or by phone at the mobile phone number listed below.

For your information, I have sent a copy of this email to both Mr Peter Garrett MP an Mr Tony Burke MP.

Yours Sincerely,

Phillip Partington.