

**SUBMISSION NO.24**  
**TT 25 & 26 November 2009**

13th January, 2010

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with more than a little concern that I write to you regarding the listing of short fin and long fin Mako Sharks on Appendix II of the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). My understanding is that any species included on the Appendices to the C.M.S. will become an automatic listing on Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) as at **end January 2010**.

The implementation of this procedure would undoubtedly have a major impact on the Fishing Industry which injects some 600 million dollars per year into the Australian Economy, sustaining and underpinning innumerable **everyday businesses, many cities, townships and tourism**.

***The reality is, that if any economy that is supported by the Fishing Industry is further damaged, Canberra will incur the wrath of hordes of irate Australian citizens.***

Consideration should also be given as to how it would impinge upon the highly successful NSW DPI ***Game Fish Tagging Program of Australia***.

The NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program of Australia is the largest saltwater tagging program of its kind in the world and has been in operation since 1973. It is used to obtain information on the biology (distribution, movement, growth, exploitation) of ***sharks***, billfish, tunas and sportfish and encourages game fishers to participate in the management of the fishery.

Information to hand reveals that exclusively precluding fisherfolk from taking Mako sharks would manifest nil effect nor be of benefit to the stock of this specie.

There is a considerable developing groundswell of opinion by ***Australian citizens*** requesting an exemption to the provisions of Part 13 of the EPBC Act under s303A of the Act which states ....

“The Minister may specify that any or all prohibitions in part 13 do not apply to a person in relation to an action to which an exemption relates. However, the Minister may only grant an exemption under s303A if satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so.”

Yours faithfully,

Peter S. Simpson  
Senior Vice President  
Newcastle & Port Stephens Game Fish Club Inc.