

**SUBMISSION NO.19**  
**TT 25 & 26 November 2009**

RE: Pending decision of the E.P.B.C. Act to list and Ban the fishing for Mako sharks and Porebeagle sharks

Dear Comittee

My Name is Paul Irvine and I am currently the Bass Strait game fishing clubs recorder and the State recorder for game fishing association of Victoria. The recorders role is to record all tag and release information and captures of all gamefish species which includes the Mako shark. In recent year there has been a noticeable increase in the number of Mako sharks in Victorian water and a decline in Blue shark in Victorian water. I mention this because of your department's decision to stop the recreational take on Mako sharks in commonwealth water due to the EPBC act.

Currently All game fishers work alongside Industry NSW in the tagging program to give a scientific analyses of areas game fish frequent, estimated size of game fish and dates and times. This is all valuable information where science based decisions can be made. With the EPBC act coming into effect, not being able to tag and release the mako shark will undermine the 30 plus years of the tagging programs vital recording data were science-based decision can be made.

Bass Strait Game Fishing club is currently working along side with SARDI-Aquatic Sciences pushing for a grant to satellite tag the shortfin mako shark in Victorian waters. This is a follow up from the Satellite tagging program conducted in South Australian Water By Paul Rogers and Dr Charlie Huveneers from SARDI-Aquatic Sciences where valuable migration data on southern Shortfin Mako is being gathered. Information on the project see web page  
[http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project\\_id=308&dyn=1219284592](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=308&dyn=1219284592)

Other objectives of the project are to gather genetic information on the Mako shark. Tissue samples and spine vertebra are collected on captured sharks. This will help scientists make a model on the genetic mixing of mako sharks as well as help age the sharks.

Currently Members of the game fishing association of Australia have a minimum weight for capture which reduces the taking of the mako shark and increase the tagging of the species. Although there are no state bases minimum length, GFAA have a minimum length and in Victoria a bag limit of 1 shark per person as been in place for many years.

The Peak recreational fishing bodies (VR fish and recfish) have just released figures showing that there is 2.3billion dollars accredited to the Victorian economy directly through the sport of recreational fishing and a major part of this is directly spent on sport and game fishing. I believe it would be in the national interest to keep Mako shark open to recreational angler not only for science we are involved in but for the economic value fishing brings to coastal regions. Lets together bring a science based answer to find out if the northern hemisphere mako population and the southern hemisphere mako Population intermix and find some real data on the number of this truly magnificent sports fishing shark.

I ask you for an exemption under section s303A of the EPBC Act for recreational fishers to capture and Tag and release help further the study on this migratory species and to understand upon science base information it status in the southern Hemisphere.

Also, another question on the fishing seen, I myself am worried about the southern Bluefin tuna. With Stock falling to 9%of original biomass, I can't find a reason why you haven't protected the southern Bluefin tuna before Mako Sharks. The southern bluefin tuna is a Migratory Species and is in dire straits. Once the southern bluefin tuna and mako are protected, Victoria has lost more than 80% of its game fishery. Tasmania and south Australia will be much the same.

Thank you for reading and I hope we can together come to an agreement, which can benefit all Australian fishers.

Thanks

Paul Irvine  
Hon State Recorder GFAV  
Bass Strait Game fishing Club recorder  
And concerned fisher

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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