

Proposed plan re Australian shark fishery
Including sharks listed on the CMS and CITES and recreational fishing
interaction with governments

By MR Dale McClelland
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And in response to the listing of Mako sharks and porebeagle sharks
Within the Australian EPBC act

To The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Proposed plan re Australian shark fishery including sharks listed on the CMS and CITIES and recreational fishing interaction with governments

Part 1 opening statement

Part 2 points of proposal

Part 3 justification and explanation of points

OPENING STATEMENT

First of all other than being a concerned community member and active recreational fishermen, owning a small fishing related website and being a member of a fishing club I have no qualifications in the marine sciences field nor am I a member of a political party

I am an active and reasonably well known (in Victoria) sports fisherman

I am reasonably well read on most of the available government documents and have had some 35 years fishing and boating experience

All of the recommendations are my own and are my own opinions

PART 2 PROPOSAL

1. Place a moratorium on all sharks and fishes pending the update of the Current EPBC act as per review recommendations as of their status within the existing EPBC act
2. Update the current SHARK plan to bring it in line with the upcoming developments within Environmental law (the new EPBC act) when it comes into effect
3. Update the commonwealth Policy on by catch as per above
4. Assist in the implementation of a recreational fishing and boating peak group that is Self funded (similar to the New Zealand model) and not politically aligned to act on behalf of the recreational fishing and boating community
5. review all recreational fishing bag and catch limits and disposal of fish laws
6. Lobby the Game fishing Sector to be even more pro active with competition scoring etc to promote best practices amongst this group of recreational anglers
7. improve the use of federal funding for recreational fishing to incorporate education and scientific research
8. Place an ban or a significant penalty(financial) on the importation of shark related products with the exception of pharmaceutical and scientific requirements
9. assist with by catch management to fill the void in the domestic shark product market that bans will effect
10. instigate a national recreational fishing license in 3 parts to assist in scientific research and fisheries management including a saltwater license freshwater license and a combined license with funding from each license spent on those specific areas
11. instigate and allow the Commonwealth to promote implement best world practices of recreational and commercial fishing in Australia and publicize this world wide to promote Australia as a tourist destination on these facts

Part 3 justification and explanation of points of proposal

1. As per the recommendations and statement of the Hawke Review of the current EPBC act it is now a little outdated and does not include relevant latest scientific and economic data that does effect the world and Australia today. Personally I do think a separate policy for climate change and for marine and for terrestrial linked to but separate enough of the act allowing each section to be reviewed and updated when required without having to review other sections would be beneficial. I would like to see the listing of all species and the law's associated with listing being placed completely on hold until the implementation of any or all of the recommendations are complete
2. **To list any species now without an impact assessment and without accurate scientific proof that it is required to be listed in Australia, and without the ability to cater for 2 appendices would be unjust**
3. The current shark plan *National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan)* is quoting some 10 year old facts and figures and the plan is actually some 6 years old. I would like to see this plan updated to reflect more recent scientific and economic data and would like to see this and similar plans to have a maximum life span of 4 to 5 years and a provision in each plan to be updated in part in i whole AS REQUIRED. Funding for such updates could be made available through avenues that will be covered in later points
4. The current policy on bycatch (both the national and commonwealth) policies are 10 years old and do not reflect the interaction of both commercial developments and capabilities and science and aquaculture developments. The also do not encompass each of the different fisheries and probably should do so
5. As it currently stands the recreational fishing and boating sector is somewhat fermented and government funding for such peak bodies has been changed or diverted to different peak bodies. The onus should be put back on the recreational fishing and boating sector to establish and run their own peak body, with the assistance and co operation of federal and state governments to allow proper meaningful representation of Australia's largest sport and recreational group Estimating that in excess of 50% of the population fish at least once a year and 75% of all Australians will fish at least once in their lives this is a huge economy driven by a huge user group. Funding for such a group utilizing 1 to 2 % of revenue raised through tackle sales, boating sales licensing and vehicle registrations would be a huge pool that could fund not only the peak body but scientific and educational work that the body may wish to carry out (similar to the New Zealand body funded in this way)
6. An entire review of the bag limit catches in each state and territory as well as nationally should be undertaken in conjunction with environmental policy. Antiquated laws such as the dumping or retention of carcasses should be looked at. Example any fish that could not be consumed if it was to be injured or killed in its capture by recreational anglers should not be an acceptable target and the laws of dumping of carcasses should reflect this. Accidental captures and by catch capture would need to be taken into consideration
7. working with and lobbying the game sector to only target and keep fishes and sharks that will be consumed would be easily achievable. Both the GFAA and ANSA organizations are healthy and strong groups that are forward in their preservations of fish stocks but with the right scoring systems for competitions and laws regarding only keeping fish and sharks that can be eaten, we the fishing population will see less protest from green and or environmental groups that currently do not agree with fishing

8. Federal and state funding if not used to fund recreational fishing peak bodies etc can be Better used to assist in education and research and fisheries management with organizations such as Aquaculture sciences and the like being able to access extra funding
9. Place bans and or Hefty penalties on the importation of shark products that are a direct result of the illegal and inhumane act of Finning and or overharvesting in international waters. exceptions can be made for pharmaceutical products derived from Sharks caught overseas and the penalties (financial) can be used for any of the other listed thing here in this proposal)
10. The bycatch laws could be changed slightly to ensure all shark product consumed locally where possible is caught locally where possible without adding extra burden to our fish stocks (as its currently by catch anyway) with fins livers and flesh supplying the domestic market allowing further employment in the preparation of these goods
11. a National (or a state license valid in other states) in three parts could be a good option allowing for funding that would benefit the areas most used by recreational anglers. A license for freshwater (funding freshwater) a license for marine (funding marine) and a license incorporating both (at a higher cost) that revenue could be divided from would be beneficial and allow better interaction between state fisheries and would assist in tourism
12. If all of the above were carried out Australia would be up there in the world with best fisheries management and is something we could promote to the rest of the world to assist in exporting and aquaculture development and to benefit both domestic and international tourism again boosting the economy accordingly