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Craig Findlay

BY: JS

12th January 2010

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

SUBMISSION No.32

TT 25 & 26 November 2009

Dear Sirs,

Re: Banning of Recreational Fishing For Short Finned Mako Sharks

I am writing this letter to express my concern at the impending ban on the taking of Short-finned Mako Sharks, Long-finned Mako Sharks and Porbeagle Sharks under The Australian EPBC Act 1999. This follows the listing of these three species at the end of 2008 in the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Listing under Appendix II of CMS encourages much needed international cooperation to work towards the conservation of these species.

I have been involved in the sport of game fishing for over 20 years and in this time we have seen some major cultural changes to the way that gamefishing is conducted to the point that it is now common for over 90% of all species to be released. This results in gamefishing having minimal impact on the environment whilst providing significant financial benefit to coastal communities. Game fishing provides families with a constructive way to experience the oceanic environment and in the future I would like to think that in a well managed fishery Australian families will have the right to experience the thrill of catching the many amazing species that frequent our coast line.

The decision to ban the recreational fishing for these species has been rushed through parliament with little consideration for the effects it will have on the various user groups around the country. The Rudd government's continual push for a green Australia is now affecting the ability of the government to make balanced decisions without proper consultation with those affected by the changes.

The listing of these species as threatened is based on stock assessments of the Mediterranean and Atlantic stocks of these species, there is no scientific evidence to support the link between populations of these species on the South Western Pacific and those of the Mediterranean and Atlantic.

I would encourage the joint standing committee to reconsider Australia's support of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals as we are now having laws imposed on the Australian population that are not relevant to the migratory species that frequent our country.

I look forward to hearing of your prompt action on this matter!

Kind regards,

Craig Findlay

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