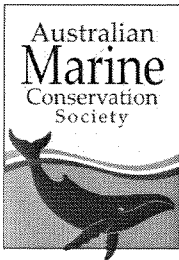


SUBMISSION No.2

TT 25 & 26 November 2009

RECEIVED
10 DEC 2009
BY *[Signature]*



The voice for the environment since 1955

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

14 December 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Support for EPBC listing of three shark species following listing under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species


The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW would like to take this opportunity to support the proposals to add the porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*) to the list of migratory species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*.

Sharks worldwide have shown significant declines due to heavy fishing pressure and their life history characteristics lead to an inherent vulnerability to overfishing. Compounding this vulnerability is the fact that in most fisheries jurisdictions, including Australia, little is known about shark populations, their movements and what effect fishing is having on their numbers and on ecosystems in general. Despite this lack of knowledge, large scale shark fisheries continue to exist.

It is encouraging to note that NT, WA and SA have supported the amendments to the Appendices to the Convention. It is disappointing that NSW and Queensland chose not to support the same amendments given the recent shark fishing history of these two states. Both have failed to demonstrate sustainability when managing their shark fisheries and have required intervention from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). Compliance issues associated with a listing of these three shark species under the EPBC Act will need to be closely monitored.

We see the proposed listing under the EPBC Act as an important first step towards improved protection for porbeagles, shortfin and longfin makos, and indeed for all shark species. We strongly support their listing as migratory species under the EPBC Act.

Yours faithfully,



Darren Kindleysides
Director,
Australian Marine Conservation Society



Cate Faehrmann,
Executive Director,
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Submission