

**SUBMISSION NO.23**  
**TT 25 & 26 November 2009**

KJ & SJ Oates

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Department of House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Sir

**Re : Proposed Ban of Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako & Porbeagle Sharks**

I am appalled to hear of the proposed Ban on the above Shark species for capture or tag & release by recreational anglers.

This has been a rushed decision with little or no consultation with the recreational angling community or general public. Furthermore it appears that no scientific data from our expert Marine Biologists or the NSW Fisheries department has been sought to support the ban.

There is a substantial amount of data & information regarding this fishery available which shows that recreational angling in this country has little or no affect on the species. Over the past 25 years, Game fishers & recreational anglers in this country have been swayed to the practiced tag & release. This has provided NSW Fisheries with vast amount of knowledge of the migratory patterns and movement of these fish species. Scientific experts are also convinced that these species do not frequent between Southern & the Northern hemisphere where diminishing stocks are apparent.

I am involved with some fishing tournaments in this state whereby we now even put a minimum weight for the capture of these species to further sustain our fishery for years to come.

Recently Ernst & Young presented the Victorian State Government with statistics showing that Recreational Angling in Victoria was worth \$2.3 billion annually & it has been estimated that Game Fishing in this state alone is worth over \$100 Million annually. I have a \$60,000 boat which uses on average \$70- of fuel for a days fishing. I have 12 rod & reel outfits catering for various line classes of fishing valued from \$700 to \$1,200. Then there is the tackle, bait, maintenance & repairs, safety equipment which in total adds up to a substantial amount on money. If this ban is implemented then I may as well sell everything & go charter a boat in New Zealand where laws are not antiquated & Government practice is to consult with Recreational Anglers & marine experts if there is to be a change in fishing practices.

I have written to The Prime Minister, Minister Garrett, Minister Burke & Shadow Minister Hunt regarding the proposed ban and advised them of my disenchantment with this decision. At least I am consulting with you over how I feel which is substantially more than we as recreational anglers were consulted over this proposed ban.

I have attached a copy of the letter I sent to Senator Garrett in December for your information. I can only hope that your committee pursues a commonsense approach & seeks scientific data & information from fishing peak bodies for consideration before any rash decision is made.

Personally I do not support the listing of shortfin mako, longfin mako & porbeagle Sharks under the EPBC Act.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Oates  
State Secretary - Game Fishing Association of Victoria  
Member - Victorian Game Fishing Club  
Member - Latrobe Game Fishing Club  
Member - Gippsland Lakes Fishing Club  
Member - Bay of Island Swordfish Club, NZ.