

**SUBMISSION NO.45**  
**TT 25 & 26 November 2009**

To the Secretarie of the Joint Standing Committee On Treaties.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the proposed ban on fishing for Mako Sharks in Commonwealth waters.

Firstly I am opposed to the proposed ban. The research I have undertaken on the topic leads me to believe this decision is being rushed through with little to no public consultation, something that is not in line with the democratic society in which we live.

The proposed ban is also based on little credible science. The proposition has come about based upon a listing from Croatia for 3 shark species to be listed on the Conservation of Migratory Species Act, due to a diminishing population in the Mediterranean sea. Other countries including New Zealand and the United States of America have undertaken research showing that Mako Sharks are not a migratory species and as such are not including them in their relative acts. This has also been shown through tagging programs undertaken by N.S.W. fisheries. These show that Mako Sharks are not migratory. This supports my earlier comment about little credible science. Banning fishing for Mako Sharks in Australian waters will not help the population of Mako Sharks found in the Northern Hemisphere.

Peter Garret has stated that banning fishing for Mako Sharks will have minimal economic impact. This is simply ludicrous at best. It has been estimated that Game fishing in Victoria alone injects 100 to 150 million dollars per year into the economy. In the last year I have spent around \$3,000 on equipment (rods, reels, line etc), bait, petrol etc for the purpose of fishing. This is a modest amount compared to some of the people I fish with.

It would be a far greater outcome for Mako Sharks, the fishery as well as for fishermen if we were to manage the fishery by implementing size limits rather than flat out banning fishing for the species. Responsible anglers already have self imposed limits as to the size shark they keep for the table, often releasing both small and the large breeding sharks un harmed.

There is nothing I enjoy more than sitting down with my family to a meal of flake that I have caught and prepared my self.

In summary I am opposed to the banning of fishing for Mako Sharks, based on the lack of credible science and the lack of public consultation.

Regards,  
Andrew Lewthwaite.