

12 January 2010

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

By email to: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Sirs,

**Listing of the shortfin mako, longfin mako and porbeagle sharks
as migratory species under the EPBC Act**

Please be advised that I object in the strongest possible sense to the potential listing of the three abovementioned shark species under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

I am 50 years old and have been gamefishing off the NSW coast for over 35 years. I am an Honorary Life Member of Sydney Game Fishing Club. I practice sensible and sustainable fishing practices. I have endeavoured to impart the same philosophies to my 3 children (aged between 13 and 23), and to others in our fishing club, and people I meet from other fishing clubs.

It is clear that the push for the listing of the three species has come from extreme protectionist groups, rather than being the result of appropriate scientific investigation, and it is also clear there has been no independent consideration of the economic and social impact of the proposed listing. This **MUST** be done before any such listing could ever be considered.

Of course, what a proper review will or, I am very confident would show is that :

- The local populations of the subject species (most predominantly the short-fin mako) are healthy, not showing any signs of depletion from overfishing, and already well controlled from a Fisheries Management perspective.
- There is no evidence of any inter-mingling of our local stocks with that of the stocks overseas which are apparently in decline, and may well be completely different genetic groups.
- There would be a **very significant** economic and social impact of any proposed listing. Independent [Ernst & Young] evidence already exists that over four million Australians go fishing every year and generate millions of dollars for regional economies.

Given that the recent Hawke Review of the EPBC Act has basically recommended amendments which would fix the potential problem emerging locally (by properly distinguishing between CMS Appendix I and Appendix II listings, so that the highest level of protection is not mandatory – **JUST LIKE IN OTHER COUNTRIES**), it is imperative that no change to the status quo is made until the proper and logical revisions are put in place.

So, I again reiterate that I object in the strongest possible terms to the potential listing of the three abovementioned shark species under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

I also object to the outrageous way this issue has been handled by this Labour Government. I attached a copy of a further letter sent today to the relevant government minister, Mr Garrett. He has not even bothered to respond to several previous communications from me, and I understand that his office will not even accept calls about the issue any more. It would be laughable if it were not so outrageous in a supposedly democratic society. He should be censured for his blatant disregard of his responsibilities immediately Parliament resumes, if not sooner.

Yours faithfully,

R J (Bob) Danckert

Cc : *Senator Richard Colbeck; Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry.*