

SUBMISSION NO.28
TT 25 & 26 November 2009

Dear Madam/Sir

Recreational fishermen are up in arms because this will still not protect the three listed sharks globally and they were not consulted. There is plenty of evidence that shortfin mako sharks are not inter-hemispherical migratory species (http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project_id=308) so thus cannot help repopulate the Mediterranean or the northern pacific (areas in which have been overfished). Research and reason is what is required in this issue. Most fishermen are happy to follow the rules, and in fact, help provide research data to Scientists. **Be brave and fight the fights that NEED fighting and not the fights you think you can win.** You will get more respect this way.

Fight 1) The EPBC obligations are only applied to voluntary signatories of the act. Get the top ten countries that capture sharks (ie Indonesia, USA, China, japan etc) to become signatories of the act. After all they account for >60% of 'LEGAL' global shark captures (the amount of illegal captures is anyone's guess)

Fight 2) then combat commercial wholesale ILLEGAL slaughter of sharks. These 2 fights will give you more kudos and will have an enormously larger impact on the conservation of the three species than stopping recreational fishermen.

Fight 3) protect thresher sharks before you protect shortfin mako. Some fishermen will now focus their attention to more vulnerable species. Porbeagle and longfin mako sharks, whilst encountered in Australian waters prefer a different habitat and are rarely caught by recreational fishermen because they don't fish in the same deep waters as the commercial guys. If you ban fishing for porbeagle and longfin makos in Australia 99% of recreational fishermen would not have fought the ban. if you knew anything of the species you are trying to conserve you would have prioritized your fight.

Kind regards
Dr Travis Dutka

12 January 2010