



THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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To: GFAA Executive & GFAA State Associations
From: GFAA President Grahame Williams
Date: 8 December 2009
Re: Listing of Mako Sharks and Porbeagle on Appendix II of the C.M.S.

Statement

GFAA have been aware of this issue since August 2008 and was aware that three (3) species were listed at the Bonn Convention in December 2008.

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GFAA and AFMA both disagreed with the listing however European Countries voted for the listing. The listing is under Article II of the Convention which means that under that Convention the listed species require management to be put in place to conserve the stocks. The Australian EPBC (*the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation*) Act of 1999 requires that any species listed on any Appendix of the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) must be listed under the Australian Act and as such the Department is listing these migratory species as at end January 2010 which will have implications for fishers - (no take, no catching etc.)

Pat Jones
Secretary
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GFAA were contacted on this matter recently by DEWHA (*Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts*) advising that the listing would be applicable by that date.

All Correspondence to
The Secretary, PO Box 465,
Swansea, NSW, 2281

Website: www.gfaa.asn.au

GFAA has responded to the Department giving the history and details of the gamefishing catch & release for Mako Sharks and estimates on mortality and has put forward a case that stopping gamefishers from catching Makos will have no beneficial benefit to the stocks unless all other fishers (commercials) are also banned from taking Makos. In fact the Australian longline fleet in the ET&BF is estimated to kill 3,500 to 4,000 short fin Makos per year.

ABN 24 498 365 663

Many other nations in the Western & Central Pacific are not signatories to the CMS nor do they have draconian EPBC Acts therefore they will still continue to take as many Makos as they like.

GFAA has requested exemption to the provisions of Part 13 of the EPBC Act under s303A of the Act which states

"The Minister may specify that any or all prohibitions in Part 13 do not apply to a person in relation to an action to which an exemption relates. However, the Minister may only grant an exemption under s303A if satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so."



Footnote: At the time of preparing this statement I have had no response from DEWHA other than a reply stating that the GFAA correspondence has been received.

President Grahame calls on all gamefishing people and Clubs to write a letter of dissent to their local Federal & State Members, other Ministers & Shadow Ministers of regional coastal towns where gamefishing occurs as this ban will have a major impact on tourism and local communities as well as our sport.

It is also advised for everyone to write INDIVIDUAL letters or emails to:

The Minister of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
The Hon Peter Garrett AM.MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

and

The Shadow Minister
The Hon. Greg Hunt, MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

GFAA is still hopeful of a meeting with the Department to discuss this issue in the very near future.

Grahame A. Williams
President, GFAA Inc.

For further information I can be contacted at grahame@gfaa.asn.au, mobile telephone no 0412 302450.