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Senator Eric Abetz,
Liberal Senator for Tasmania,
First Floor,
136 Davey Street,
Hobart,
Tas,7000.

Dear Senator,

**Re: Listing of Mako and Porbeagle Sharks on Appendix 2
of the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**

The Tasmanian Game Fishing Association represents over 600 affiliated anglers, male, female, boy and girl spanning all age groups.

These anglers, and the over 125000 other recreational anglers in Tasmania all engage in fishing for sport, relaxation, human social activity, and for food.

The TGFA is seriously concerned at the listing of both Mako and Porbeagle Sharks on the Appendix of the Conservation of Migratory Species. The listing is under Article II of the Bonn Convention of December 2008, 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 of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) is listing these migratory species **as at end January 2010** which will have implications for fishers - (no take, no catching etc.)

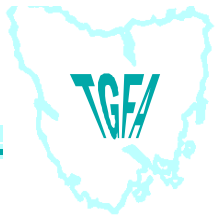
Australia has produced, as a result of its membership to IPOA-Sharks a “National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan)” that is described as:

“Australia’s Shark-plan was developed according to guidelines as set out in the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks). The overall objective of the IPOA-Sharks and Australia’s Shark-plan is to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use. The Shark-plan is a first for Australia in that it is a national guide for managers and interested stakeholders on how to better incorporate shark conservation and management issues into the management of fisheries and the broader marine environment.

The Shark-plan is split into two sections, whereby:

PART A

- provides a description of why the Shark-plan has been developed and how it will be implemented;
- lists the conservation and management issues the Shark-plan strives to address;
- presents the Shark-plan, and associated actions; and
- provides a discussion of issues relating to its implementation and review.



Tasmanian Game Fishing Association Inc

State Branch of The Game Fishing Association of Australia

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PART B

- provides a brief overview of Australia's shark fisheries; and
- provides a description of each of the conservation and management measures addressed by the Shark-plan. The reader is encouraged to refer to the Shark Assessment Report (Rose and SAG 2001) for more detailed information of the status of shark stocks and management of sharks in Australia.

¹ The Shark Assessment Report can be viewed at <http://www.daff.gov.au/sharkplan>"

The plan defines recreational obligations and in addition states have imposed recreational bag limits that have been set in place to secure sustainability of the species.

Our anglers assist in basic scientific study through the Tag and Release Program administered through the Fisheries Resource Management Branch of the New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment, formerly the New South Wales Fisheries Research Institute There is also a significant economic boost in Tourism to several Coastal Communities along the North and East Coasts of Tasmania from anglers fishing out of those ports. This will be lost as a result of this listing.

Mako Sharks in particular form a primary source of food, and sport for our Members. A significant number are Tagged and Released each year, allowing scientists to track their migratory paths, growth rates etc. Under the listing above, which was opposed by both the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Game Fishing Association of Australia (our national representative body), it will be illegal for anglers to fish for these species.

However, the Minister responsible MAY grant an exemption to a person or persons in relation to an action to which an exemption relates.

It should be noted that there are NO restrictions applying to the Commercial sector, which does no Stock Assessments, but is governed by a Management Plan. Over 3500 to 4000 Mako Sharks are killed by the Commercial sector annually.

The TGFA and GFAA are writing to the Minister, and all Federal Parliamentarians, from all Parties, to grant an exemption to all recreational anglers.

Yours sincerely,

Brett Cleary,
President,
Tasmanian Game Fishing Association.