

Guys,

Media release for distribution to our club network. You should also be aware that Minister Garrett announced late last week that recreational fishing for mako sharks (short fin, long fin, porbeagle) will be banned from a date as yet to be advised in January 2010.

While ANSA was aware that the Federal government was intending to review its position on the taking of makos in light of the UN/CMS decision, we anticipated there would be proper consultation with the recreational sector before any decision or announcement was made. Regretably once again the recreational sector has been ignored by the Ministers office.

The ban on taking makos will only apply to Commonwealth waters and it will be a challenge for state fisheries agencies to maintain effective compliance by recreational fishers.

The ban also will not apply to commercial fishery operations where a current EPBC licence is held to take endangered species. It is likely that commercial fishers will fall under the same ban when their EPBC licence next falls due for review or renewal.

All ANSA members are urged to express their concern and dismay with this decision and are encouraged to write to Minister Garrett and their local Federal MP requesting that the decision be reconsidered and overturned.

John Burgess
ANSA