



Metropolitan Anglers Association Inc

Ms. Monique Leane
Victorian Fisheries Authority
Fishery Manager
PO Box 4509
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Monique,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Mako Shark Notice issued by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

The Metropolitan Anglers Association (MAA) represents over twenty (20) Victorian fishing Clubs with over a thousand members who engage in recreational fishing within the state of Victoria and across Australia.

Our association membership include fishers who fish only a few times a year to those who are avid fishers and fish on multiple occasions and at multiple locations during each year.

The Mako shark is a highly rated and sought after pelagic shark species that is very high on the target list of many recreational fishers. Our offshore game fishing members rate the capture of a Mako shark as a significant challenge to their angling skills.

The Metropolitan Anglers Association (MAA) of Victoria strongly supports responsible and sustainable recreational fishing by Victorian fishers. The MAA recognises the importance of recreational fishers responsibly and effectively developing, managing and protecting Victoria's fish species and fishing environment for current fishers and for our next generation of recreational fishers.

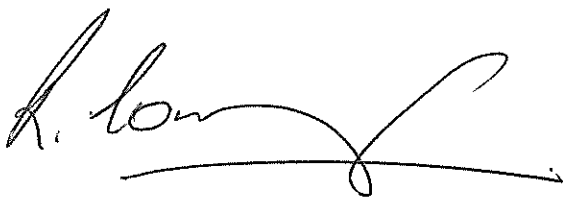
Our understanding of Mako sharks is that they are a long lived species reaching an age of up to twenty-nine (29) years. We also understand that sexual maturity is only reached at the age of eight (8) years for males and up to eighteen (18) years for females. Further, the gestation period for reproduction is between fifteen (15) to eighteen (18) months. Mako sharks are not currently classified as threatened by the IUCN, however this is not a reason for complacency. It is in fact an ideal opportunity for us to review our knowledge of this species and better understand and quantify any risks that may impact their abundance and successful reproduction.

The MAA has historically supported actions by the Victorian government and Victoria's fisheries managers to better understand the lifecycle of our local fish species and to maximise the opportunities for successful recruitment to occur.

The MAA recognises that successful recruitment of Mako sharks should be an aspirational target for both recreational fishers and fisheries managers and recommends that any management decisions regarding Mako sharks be founded on evidence based scientific research to determine the best possible approaches and options to allow the setting of appropriate management controls and regulations that produce optimal outcomes for both Mako sharks and recreational fishers.

Following specific and targeted research, decisions to set minimum size limits, maximum size limits and potentially a slot limit regime may be determined. Victorian fishers have accepted size, bag and slot limits for other valued species in the past. A similar regime may be acceptable for Mako sharks, but must be based on rigorous scientific research and open consultation with Victorian fishers.

The MAA would also recommend that in parallel to a research program, a targeted, well researched and professional education program be developed to ensure recreational fishers are aware of best practices and techniques when engaging with Mako sharks to maximise successful post release survival of captured sharks. The MAA and our member organisations would be pleased to participate in this education program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Conway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell Conway
President

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