



## Australian Government

### Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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Mrs Pat Jones  
Secretary  
New South Wales Game Fishing Association Inc  
PO Box 414  
SWANSEA NSW 2281

Dear Mrs Jones

I refer to your letter to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP of 4 February 2010 relating to forthcoming fishing tournaments organised by the New South Wales Game Fishing Association Inc (NSWGFA) to be held over the period February to March 2010. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Thank you for providing information relating to the manner in which the tournaments are to be conducted.

In particular we note the commitment of NSWGFA in promoting sustainable fishing practices including encouraging tag and release. We acknowledge the important role that your organisation plays in improving knowledge of the ecology and genetics of gamefish, including the Mako shark.

The Department is prepared to provide you advice, consistent with our Compliance and Enforcement Policy, that it will not take any enforcement action under current law against either an individual or the NSWGFA for activities occurring during scheduled tournaments.

In this regard and consistent with your stance on sustainable fishing, we ask that the NSWGFA strongly encourage participants to give preference to catch and release and to avoid the killing of Mako sharks wherever possible.

If you would like more information or clarification on any of the matters mentioned in this letter please contact Mr Drew McLean (details above).

Yours sincerely

Rose Webb  
Assistant Secretary  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
5 February 2010

