



## **Great White Shark Closures Bite Everyone**

The recent misguided actions by a few reckless fishers on the Central Coast of NSW has seen all the anglers penalised by the NSW Fisheries Minister with the gazetting of a fishing closure that is intended to protect the Great White sharks that aggregate off Stockton Beach each year. This will see anglers legitimately targeting Tailor and Mulloway in breach of the Fisheries Management Act.

The main focus of the closure is banning the use of wire traces, banning hooks larger than 8/0 and banning baits larger than 200 grams. These restrictions will mean that legitimate anglers targeting Tailor will not be able to use light wire traces or large hooks and large baits to target the mighty Mulloway.

Whilst the impacts of these broad restrictions exceed by far any the attempted protection of the Great White, the economic impacts will definitely be felt within the region as anglers rethink their holiday destination in an area that stretches from Newcastle to past Port Stephens during the peak holiday season.

Tailor fishing from the beach is a family tradition for many holiday anglers, and with many more bite offs from tailor when not using wire traces, such restrictions are diametrically opposed to the work Fisheries is doing on released fish survival due to bite offs.

The best option was to ban shark fishing with wire traces off beaches when the salmon migration is in progress. Shark fishing tackle is highly specialized and easily recognizable by competent Fisheries Officers, thus legitimate Tailor and Mulloway fishers would not have been restricted.

Whilst the Ministers actions should be commended, consultation did not occur with the states recreational fishing associations to ensure that all aspects and consequences of the closure were considered.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW will be requesting the Minister review and redefine the current restrictions so as not to penalise all anglers of NSW due to the actions of a few naïve fishers.

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**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994**  
**s.8 Notification - Fishing Closure**

**Line Fishing**

**Stockton Beach (Stockton) to Big Gibber (Hawks Nest)**

I, IAN MACDONALD MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, pursuant to section 8 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* ("the Act"), do by this notification, prohibit the taking of all species of fish by the methods of fishing specified in Column 1 of the Schedule of this notification, from waters shown in Column 2 of the Schedule.

This prohibition is effective until the 31st December 2005.

**Schedule**

<i>Column 1</i> <b>Methods</b>	<i>Column 2</i> <b>Waters</b>
The use of fishing lines (whether used with a fishing rod or otherwise) with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wire trace or line consisting of wire, or</li> <li>Any single hook larger than size 8/0 attached, or ganged or treble hooks larger than 6/0 attached, or</li> <li>A single bait or combination of baits exceeding 200 grams in total.</li> </ol>	From the beach and including the whole of the waters extending 500m seaward from the shoreline of all beaches between the northern breakwater of the Hunter River at Stockton, to Big Gibber north of Hawks Nest.  Definition: "Shoreline" Means the line where the shore meets the water at the relevant time.

*Explanatory Note: The object of this fishing closure is to reduce the risk of harming Great White Sharks by line fishing.*

IAN MACDONALD, MLC  
 Minister for Primary Industries