

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW "Promoting Sustainable Fishing"

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Grey Nurse Shark Fight Moves To the Courts

RECFISH, the national peak body that represents recreational angler's interest has joined legal proceedings that the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) has initiated to try to force the government to create marine sanctuaries in key Grey Nurse Shark habitat areas. NCC is appealing against the Australian Government's environmental approval for the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery – a commercial fishery that is known to significantly impact on the Grey Nurse Shark. NCC will ask the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to mandate marine sanctuaries and fishing gear changes to significantly reduce the impact of hook and line fishing on grey nurse sharks.

Whilst originally aimed at commercial fishing practices, the argument has been somewhat expanded to include recreational anglers. RECFISH applied and was accepted to become a party to the proceeding in and effort to refute some of the evidence the NCC is presenting and is attempting to get the matter quashed.

The NCC is being represented at the Tribunal by the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) which is indirectly funded out of the public purse. Recfish and its legal counsel on the other hand are being bankrolled entirely by the broad recreational fishing community via donations and pledges.

This is why the RFA of NSW has pledged its support to RECFISH with a donation of \$500.

If your Association, Club, Corporation or you as an individual feel compelled to render your support via a donation please contact: RECFISH Administration Manager via telephone or fax (07) 3356 1111 or PO BOX 187 GRANGE QLD 4051 or via email admin@recfish.com.au.

You can also log into a new website that is hosting all the recent evidence presented to the AAT, www.greynurses shark.com.au and also make a direct donation to the legal costs incurred by the recreational anglers at www.greynurses shark.com.au/donation.pdf. For more information on the GNS courtcase contact; greynurses shark@greynurses shark.com.au

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW has pledged its support to RECFISH and has donated \$500 towards the court fees.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW believes that there should be more scientific research undertaken within NSW to determine the actual numbers of GNS and that these definitive results are used to actually determine what precautionary measures recreational anglers should adopt.

The NCC, SCUBA divers or international 'experts' are not qualified to make assertions on the actual GNS numbers within NSW. The last study undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries-Fisheries was a one off survey in 2003. Updated and current research is needed on the GNS in NSW.

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