

# The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”

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### GREY NURSE SHARKS BREEDING PROGRAM More research is needed

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW has always stated “more research” is needed on the Grey Nurse Shark (GNS) before any alteration to the current levels of restrictions for recreational fishing. During the recent proceedings at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT), the Nature Conservation Council was attempting to place additional restrictions on recreational and commercial fishing around GNS Critical habitat. Evidence presented at the AAT about the GNS reproduction cycle highlighted the fact that even if we lock up the entire NSW coast and ban fishing in all forms, the GNS is still heading towards extinction.

It is our understanding that the New South Wales and Federal Government have accepted the necessity for more research into the grey nurse shark breeding cycle, as well as obtaining accurate population counts and modelling.

The Hon. Minister for Primary Industries, Ian MacDonald and Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries are embarking on a world first, attempting to artificially breed grey nurse sharks. The revolutionary program, will use for the first time modern embryo transfer techniques to help a shark survive in the wild. It will involve artificial insemination and specially constructed artificial uteruses to breed grey nurse sharks in captivity. If this is successful then significantly more pups can be raised without the threats that the natural environment imposes on them when they are struggling infants in the wild.

The RFA of NSW is calling on the Minister and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust to inject some funds into this research program. Max Castle, Vice President of the RFA stated, “Ultimately the GNS is an apex predator in our marine ecosystem and has a role to play. If we can enhance the stocks through this revolutionary breeding program then recreational anglers should provide some funding for this research, as recreational fishers do support many conservation issues”.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW welcomes the Hon. Minister and the Department’s efforts to gain more knowledge through this and other research programs, and believes it to be a positive step forward supporting the Grey Nurse Shark recovery plan and its longevity.

For more information on the AAT courtcase visit [www.greynurseshark.com.au](http://www.greynurseshark.com.au) or contact [greynurseshark@greynurseshark.com.au](mailto:greynurseshark@greynurseshark.com.au) .

**The RFA of NSW- “PROMOTING SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FISHING”**  
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RFA of NSW - Member of NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Fund Expenditure Committee  
- Associate member with the NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing to  
RECFISH, National Peak Recreational Fishing Body