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Grey Nurse Shark photographed at Oceanworld, Manly

The Grey Nurse Shark urgently needs your help! Comment on the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery EIS

The draft NSW Ocean Trap and Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has now been released by the NSW Government. While acknowledging the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery's (OTLF) significant impact on the Grey Nurse Shark, the plan completely fails to recommend increased protection in Grey Nurse Shark critical habitat areas.

The Ocean Trap and Line Fishery uses a number of fish trap and line methods to target spanner crabs and a large number of fish species, including snapper, kingfish and bream off the NSW coast. Management of this fishery must be changed to reduce its significant impact on the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark and a number of other overfished species.

The EIS is open for public comment until **Friday, 21 April 2006**.

This is your only chance to show the NSW and Commonwealth Governments that you believe the OTLF must do more to reduce its impact on the Grey Nurse Shark.

Please consider making the following points in your submission:

- Ask that the Department of Environment and Heritage refuse to grant export approval to the OTLF on the grounds that it is acknowledged that the current fishery and proposed management changes will not make the OTLF sustainable and it will continue to have a significant impact on an endangered species, the Grey Nurse Shark.
- The OTLF must immediately implement 1,500m sanctuary, or no-take, zones around the sixteen key Grey Nurse Shark habitat areas in NSW waters.
- Wobbegong sharks are also considered to be a species at risk. They should be protected from all commercial and recreational fishing.
- The OTLF must do more to reduce its impact on several fish species that have been identified as 'overfished', including gemfish, snapper and kingfish.
- Immediate steps must be taken to reduce the number of fishers in the OTLF as the current management has led to too many fishers trying to catch too few fish.

Help us to ensure that this fishery implements adequate measures to protect the Grey Nurse Shark. Take the time to prepare an individual submission outlining your concerns and submit it by **Friday, 21 April 2006**. Copies of the full documents and overview of the proposals can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or at the NCC Environment Centre, Level 5, 362 Kent St, Sydney.

For more information contact Megan Kessler, Fisheries and Marine Networker on email: mkessler@nccnsw.org.au or ph: 02 9279 2466.

