

Environmental Impact Statement Submission
Ocean Trap and Line Fishery
PO Box 21
Cronulla NSW 2230
Fax: 02 9527 8576 (Ocean Trap and Line Fishery EIS Submission)
Email: otl.eis@fisheries.nsw.gov.au

Your Name: James Parks (Environmental Officer)
Your Organisation (if applicable): Australian National University Scuba Club
No. of Organisation Members: >150
Address: ANU Scuba Club
Sport & Recreation Association
ANU. ACT 0200.
Phone: 0413610362
Email: parksjamesw@yahoo.com.au

Provide your comments on the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery EIS here:

As a club, we would like to make the following points:

Overall, the Environmental Impact Statement is a useful document, that raises some important concerns, requiring changes to Fisheries Management Strategies, policy and enforcement to reduce these threats.

1. Grey Nurse Sharks are known to be heavily endangered.
2. Grey Nurse Sharks are frequently injured or killed by line & other types of fishing, making species survival & reproduction more difficult.
3. Current non-sustainable over-fishing not only threatens these species (e.g. snapper, gemfish, kingfish) it again reduces food stocks for larger marine animals like seals and sharks.
4. Snorkeling, Swimming & Scuba diving have significant economic importance to Southern NSW and ACT coastal communities. These depend on clean, accessible & safe sites, with biodiverse and well populated ecosystems.
5. Snorkeling, Swimming & Scuba diving and other examples of negligible environmental impact tourism should be supported in preference to those (i.e. large scale fishing) that will lead to extinction of various species if changes are not made. These groups can be instrumental in identifying future threats early, and monitoring changes.

Recommendations:

1. 1.5km 'no-fishing' zones around key Grey Nurse Shark breeding/habitat sites. These safe havens will act as nuclei for species survival and growth for fish and shark species.
2. Ensure sufficient economic sanctions are in place and actively enforced to completely discourage deliberate or 'accidental' harm to Grey Nurse Sharks and other threatened species.
3. Reliance on best scientific evidence to ensure that ONLY SUSTAINABLE fishing and marine use is allowed, regardless of short term commercial pressures.
4. Community education and involvement, promoting low impact activities in preference to deleterious land/marine usage activities.
5. Most of all, threats identified in the IES must be specifically addressed in policy and enforcement terms, particularly that to the Grey Nurse Sharks.

We are more than happy to discuss these and related strategies to help prevent irrecoverably losing these species.

Your comments must be received by **Friday, 21 April 2006**