

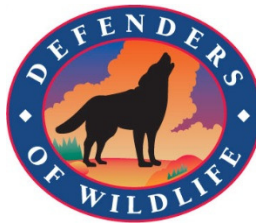


**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDAID



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email to: Greg.Hunt.MP@environment.gov.au

28 January 2015

Dear Minister

Re: CMS CoP11 shark listings and Australia's reservations

The undersigned organisations are writing with regard to the actions of the Australian Government with respect to the implementation of thresher shark and hammerhead shark listings, as agreed at the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species.

We understand that Australia has submitted a reservation for the three species of thresher sharks and the two species of hammerhead sharks that were recently included on Appendix II of the Convention. Reasons provided to us for this include: the recent CITES non-detriment finding (NDF) that the take of hammerhead sharks is sustainable and that comprehensive management measures are in place; thresher shark landings are not

permitted in tuna fisheries; and the fact that recreational bag limits are in place for all five species.

Our organisations consider the lodging of a reservation by Australia to be a significant backwards step in the conservation of migratory sharks. The signal this sends to the broader international community, despite Australia's protestations that it remains committed to international action, is empty without prioritised domestic action. Given that the NDF includes recommendations to improve management measures, with no indication on how and when this will occur makes this process even more concerning.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider your position and take action to conserve migratory sharks in Australia's domestic waters, rather than bow to the pressures of fishing groups. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely



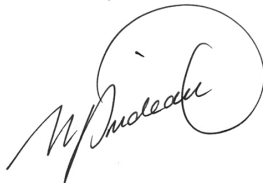
Michael Kennedy
Director, Humane Society International



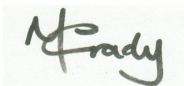
Glenn Sant
Fisheries Program Leader, TRAFFIC



Darren Kindleysides
Director, Australian Marine Conservation Society



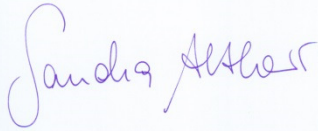
Margi Prideaux, PhD
Policy and Negotiations Director, Wild Migration



Michelle Grady
Director – Oceans Australia, The Pew Charitable Trusts



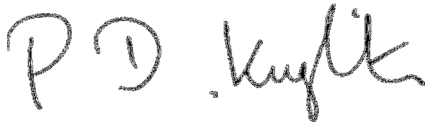
Isabel McCrea
Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare Australia



Dr Sandra Altherr
Director of Wildlife Programs, Pro Wildlife



Gilly Llewellyn
Conservation Director, WWF-Australia



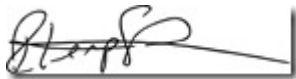
Peter Knights
Executive Director, WildAid



Isabel Ender
Head of Conservation Strategy, The Manta Trust



Alejandra Goyenechea
Senior International Counsel, Defenders of Wildlife



Dr. Ryan M. Kempster
Shark Biologist and Founder, Support Our Sharks

Cc:

- The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Minister for Agriculture
- Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture

Correspondence address c/o: Humane Society International, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107