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Media Release

Grey nurse shark case result sensible

“The decision handed down today by the Administrative Appeal Tribunal to dismiss the appeal by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) in relation to the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery involving grey nurse sharks has been welcomed enthusiastically by the recreational fishing community” John Harrison CEO of Recfish Australia said.

“This is a clear case of a sensible and logical outcome and demonstrates that due process was followed in the original decision by the Federal Minister for the Environment. We are particularly pleased that no further restrictions will be imposed on the recreational fishing activities along the NSW coast line as was proposed by the NCC”.

“Whilst the outcome is well received the cost factor associated with defending the interests of recreational fishing has taken a heavy toll on our very limited resources. Recfish Australia was supported by many recreational fishing groups and others who had an interest in the proceedings and that support is recognised and appreciated.”

We can now only hope that common sense will continue and no further legal action will be taken.

“Given the lack of veracity in the data that was used during the case it is clear that dedicated resources need to be assigned to answering the question once and for all on the population status of grey nurse sharks”.

It is good to see that a project has been proposed by the Commonwealth for a thorough assessment of the population and another project, funded under the Recreational Fishing Community Grant Program and run by the Australian Underwater Federation, will compliment the commonwealth project.

“We are delighted with the outcome as recreational fishing can continue in the sites along the New South Wales coast where the NCC was proposing total restriction on fishing. Recfish Australia believes the current management and protection provisions are adequate for grey nurse sharks” John Harrison concluded.

End

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