



Species	Rel. Date	Rel. Location	Est Rel. Length/Weight	Recap. Date	Recap. Location	Recap. Length/Weight	Days At Liberty	Approx. Distance Moved (NM)	Map Ref.
Mako Shark	04/08/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	220cm	25/08/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	~210cm / 110kg	21	1	-
Mako Shark	09/09/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	180cm/ 80kg	09/09/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	~180cm/ 80kg	0	0	-
Mako Shark	04/08/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	190cm/ 100kg	16/08/12	Sydney (Browns Mountain)	~120kg	12	0	-
Mako Shark	23/11/12	Jervis Bay (wide)	-	11/01/13	Cape Schanck (Vic)	186cm/ 50kg	49	354	MS 1
Mako Shark	7/01/13	Cape Woolamai (Vic)	120cm	20/01/13	Cape Woolamai (Vic)	116cm/ 14kg	13	3	MS 2
Mako Shark	10/03/13	Cape Woolamai (Vic)	220cm/ 120kg	11/03/13	Cape Liptrap (Vic)	213cm/ 113kg	1	16	MS 3

The record distance travelled for a mako tagged under the DPI program currently stands at 2577 nautical miles. This individual was tagged off NSW and recaptured off the Philippines after a shade under 12 years – a

record time at liberty. The NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program issues tags to individuals and fishing clubs using funds from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. If you would like to get involved in the

program, please phone (02) 9741 4712 or email: gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au – **Phil Bolton Fisheries Manager, Tagging NSW DPI**

Mako sharks' winter habits

Mako sharks off south-eastern Australia have made their usual seasonal showings off central and southern NSW during winter and early spring, and off the Victorian coast over summer.

Three makos, originally tagged near the Browns Mountain seamount directly east of Sydney in August and September, were all recaptured shortly afterwards in roughly the same location after up to 21 days at liberty. This includes one fish that was captured twice in the one day by the same boat! This tight bunch of recaptures is probably linked to the significant fishing activity in this area during the winter months, when many anglers target the aggregation of deep-sea fish such as blue eye trevalla and gemfish and, of course, the sharks that seem to be associated with these fish.

Local anglers assisted Rob French of the University of Tasmania tag a number of these makos with satellite archival tags programmed to pop-off and transmit their data after 30 days. While a few fish were found to stay in

the same general area, some made startling movements north into the Coral Sea, however, I'll leave Rob to tell you the full story when he reveals more about his project in a future *BlueWater* article.

Recently there have been three fish recaptured in Victorian waters with NSW DPI tags. One of these fish was originally tagged wide off Jervis Bay in November last year and was recaptured 49 days and 354 nautical miles later off Cape Schanck, Victoria, by Bass Strait GFC boat *Morwong*. The other two recaptured fish were first tagged off Cape Woolamai (near Phillip Island). One was a juvenile, with an estimated size of 120cm and 15kg, which, while at liberty for only 13 days, was found just three nautical miles from where it had been tagged. The other fish, estimated at 120kg, was caught by the *Home Strait* team after only a single day at liberty and had moved approximately 16 nautical miles southeast. The team also satellite-tagged the fish with the assistance of Paul Rogers of the South Australian Research and Development Institute

(SARDI), as part of a research study on the Victorian population of shortfin makos.

The recapture of the satellite-tagged fish was unfortunate, although the tag was returned to SARDI and the high-resolution data was retrieved, which will provide valuable new insights into the behavior of makos. Paul now has plans to deploy the tag on another large mako. There are currently four satellite-tagged makos in southern Australian waters. If any other makos are caught and the shark is jaw-hooked, the SARDI researchers would prefer that the sharks are released once the catch and tag details have been recorded.

The DPI tagging program has revealed that mako sharks can travel great distances, with a number of fish being recaptured in tropical waters after being tagged in the more temperate waters of NSW, Tasmania and Victoria. However, there also appears to be some 'site fidelity' with fish being recaptured in a location similar to where they were first tagged, even after a lengthy time at liberty.

Australia's marine park update

The Keep Australia Fishing (KAF) organisation, assisted by members of the Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA), has been running a national 'Don't Lock Us Out' campaign to lobby Australia's Federal Government to reverse its decision to lock anglers out of huge tracts of Commonwealth waters with its new marine parks.

The KAF says the campaign has been a huge success, resulting in more than 35,000 submissions sent to the Federal Government, and more than 2000 phone calls were made to Tony Burke, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, and his colleagues telling them "Don't lock us out!".

However, the campaign is not over and the Government is still determined to implement their marine park plans, which will see Australia's recreational anglers locked out of 1.3 million square kilometres of seas.

Of particular concern are the marine reserves in the Coral Sea. Cairns local, Capt Daniel McCarthy, a well-known charter skipper and President of the Cairns Professional Game Fishing

Association has battled with politicians and Green groups over this issue for years and has now nominated to run as a Senate candidate for the Australian Fishing and Lifestyle Party (AFLP).

"Environmental policies and decisions have become political currency for the major parties as they trade away our futures for political gain," says McCarthy. "We now have little choice but to get involved in the political scene, how else do you negotiate with them?"

Party Chairman and founding member Alex Witten puts it bluntly. "If you are going to negotiate with someone you must have something of value to them to negotiate with. In politics that is votes, just ask the Greens." For more information on the AFLP, visit: www.aflp.org.au

In March this year, AFTA welcomed the NSW Fisheries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson's response to the independent report into marine parks. The NSW Government will set up an independent scientific-based panel to assess whether recreational fishing can



occur in sanctuary zones. The review will take place over the next few months. In the meantime, the NSW Government has provided an amnesty for recreational anglers to fish selected sanctuary areas from the beach or rocks, which AFTA's CEO Allan Hansard said, "Is a step in the right direction and brings science rather than politics back into decision-making on marine park access".

AFTA and other organisations are urging Australia's Federal Government to adopt a similar approach to its planned marine reserves. Unfortunately, AFTA feels that Minister Tony Burke has ceased listening to good public policy and common sense.

A comprehensive update on the marine park process can be found at: www.KeepAustraliaFishing.com.au