

## **Shark fishing from metropolitan jetties: a senseless dangerous “sport”**

There is a high level of concern from the community about shark baiting and fishing from the metropolitan beaches.

Recently 4 Bronze Whaler sharks were hauled onto the beach in full view of the public. One shark didn't make it back into the water as its fin was hacked off on the jetty and its body chucked in the boot of a car.

One of the other sharks caught was dragged through a group of school children attending a swimming carnival and the kids were so shocked that the teacher called the carnival off.

These are distressing stories and we should be concerned, especially when world-recognised marine scientist Dr Scoresby Sheppard warns that shark baiting attracts all sharks in our marine waters and should be stopped immediately.

This is not just about danger to swimmers and beach users, it is also about the cruelty to sharks and protecting the species that live in the marine environment and make up the ecology of the planet. It seems a senseless act in wanting to catch and drag one of these beautiful marine creatures to shore.

WACRA wrote to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries [9 November 2010] calling for an immediate STOP to these fishing practices.

The Minister has referred the matter Primary Industries Research Fisheries and Aquaculture Division and will inform us of any progress.

WACRA will not let this issue 'drag on' like the treatment that the sharks received.

*Jim Douglas*

President WACRA