



# SENATOR THE HON RICHARD COLBECK

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Senator for Tasmania

## M E D I A R E L E A S E

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### Minister Garrett's latest target: recreational fishing

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett is set to take a slice out of the recreational fishing sector with a ban on catching popular shark species in Commonwealth waters.

Minister Garrett's ban on fishing for longfin mako, shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks, done under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, is set to be implemented in January leaving the fishing industry high and dry.

Federal Coalition spokesman for Fisheries Richard Colbeck said it was a disgrace Minister Garrett and his Department had again failed to properly consult with either the recreational or commercial fishing sector on the ban.

"Game fishing clubs around Australia are going to be severely affected by this ban. Many shark fishing competitions may be forced to be cancelled," Senator Colbeck said.

"In many coastal communities, these competitions are highly popular family events and also help drive local economies.

"Game fishing charter operators will also be hit by this decision. One charter operator in contact with my office has suggested they could lose 30% of their business.

"Despite these major effects, the recreational fishing sector has received little more than lip service from Minister Garrett and his Department.

"The same goes for the commercial fishing sector who remain in the dark as to what may or may not be allowed under the ban.

"There is also major concern about whether this decision will flow through to state fisheries.

"Minister Garrett's modus operandi is to unilaterally make a decision and then dictate to industry or local communities what will occur. Little opportunity is provided for industry or community feedback.

"That is not consultation in anyone's definition.

"Minister Garrett displayed the same dismissive attitude in listing the Coral Sea, in locking up grasslands on farmland in Tasmania and in listing the Tarkine forests of North West Tasmania.

"In all these cases, local communities and businesses have been abandoned while Minister Garrett sits in his plush ivory tower in Canberra poring over Christmas cards received from fringe green groups who dominate his decision making."