

The South Australian gummy and school shark fishery has been through the tests of time. A longline fishery in the 40's and 50's through the gillnet slaughter of the 60's through to 2016. Finally this fishery in the states West Coast has almost returned to virgin biomass.

Through AFMA's Australian Sealion Recovery Strategy there is barely any available fishing grounds in the SA coastal sector left for Commonwealth Gill net fishers, with significant permanent and rolling adaptive management closures. Undermining certainty and confidence of investors in receiving a return from South Australian waters.

Under the current Offshore Constitutional Agreement (OSA), the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) have a bycatch/trip limit of up to 10 sharks reflective of the nominal 4% school shark and 2.9% of gummy shark allocation. With the wholesale removal of commonwealth effort this limit is no longer relative to local abundance creating unnecessary discards and compliance issues.

Any review of the OSA should consider mechanisms to re-allocating a sensible amount of Commonwealth quota to the State managed fishery within three nautical miles to promote sustainable development of the resource, the MSF sector and the region.

Following are some points highlighting risks and opportunities a resurging inshore School and Gummy shark population.

- *An outdated and draconian OSA agreement and MOU, which does not have the flexibility to meet the dynamic nature of the fishery*
- *Increasing discards of dead Snapper and School shark in the Commonwealth fishery because of trip limits and by catch, due to increased hook effort*
- *Increasing discards of dead School and Gummy shark in the State fishery because of trip/day limits and localised abundance*
- *Growing national and international demand for seafood and fresh safe produce*
- *Overcapacity and poor economic performance of the MSF*
- *Overcapacity and poor economic performance of the Gill Hook and Trap*
- *Compliance efforts and usage which is unnecessary if we can establish a better regime for management*
- *Fisherman report healthy numbers of animals right across the west coast*

To best meet these challenges and opportunities WCPFA and the MFA of SA see open and frank communication between departments and industry as the first and vital step.