



P.O. Box 630
NARRABEEN
NSW 2101

6th December 2008

The Letters Editor
The Many Daily

Dear Sir,

The National Park Association's marine coordinator Nicky Hammond stated (MD, page 3 5/12/08 "Plan to Ban Local Fishing") that there are fewer than 500 grey nurse sharks along the NSW coast. Ms Hammond may be interested to know that a PhD student at Queensland University, Carly Bansemer, is researching the east coast population of the grey nurse shark and has photo-identified over 1000 different individuals and is still counting.

In a response to Professor Bob Kearney's criticisms of the lack of science used in NSW marine parks, Professor David Booth, chair of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science's Scientific Committee, said "There appear to be a lot of charlatans in this debate. If you want sensible comment about marine biological issues, you should go to professional marine biologists. If not, comments should be taken with a grain of salt."

We agree with Professor Booth's comments. The debate for marine parks should be ruled more by science rather than ambit claims.

Phil Ingram
President
Anglers Action Group