



Australian Government  
Director of National Parks

# MEDIA RELEASE

19 October 2007

## **COD GROUNDS COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVE FISHING BAN UNCHANGED**

The Director of National Parks has clarified that the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decision of 18 October 2007 upholding the declaration of the New South Wales Ocean Trap and Line Fishery as an approved wildlife trade operation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* does not affect the current protection measures for the grey nurse shark in the Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

All forms of fishing, including recreational, commercial and spear fishing are still prohibited under the interim management arrangements that came into effect on 28 May 2007. Everything about protecting the shark at the Cod Grounds is the same this week as it was last week.

The reserve was established to help the survival of the critically endangered grey nurse shark by protecting prime habitat at this important aggregation site. The Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve was declared as a strict nature reserve to be managed to ensure the undersea ecosystem and native species are protected.

The AAT noted in its decision:

“This area is protected by the Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve (gazetted 28/05/07), which prohibits all commercial fishing vessels and recreational fishers to a distance of 1km in all directions.”

For further information please contact Hilary Sullivan on 0428 324 069