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Subject: Docket # 2025-R-P-0017

Date: Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 7:22:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: ace d [REDACTED]

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the upcoming bait restriction proposal for Delaware State Parks. I would like to respectfully express my opposition to the proposed ban on kayaking out baits, as well as any potential leader or hook restrictions that may follow.

For the past 20 years, I have been a successful, law-abiding, land-based shark fisherman along our coastline. Throughout that time, I have consistently followed DNREC regulations, practicing proper catch-and-release techniques using the recommended blocker rig, all while kayaking out baits. Every hook has been accounted for, and every shark has been safely released—swimming away strongly within seconds after being unhooked in shallow water. I use circle hooks with flattened barbs on appropriate tackle to minimize fight time and stress on the animal such as marlin rod and reels.

I have even received recognition from DNREC officers for my responsible and ethical fishing practices. I share this not to boast, but to highlight that there are anglers who take conservation and safety seriously and are committed to doing things the right way.

I understand that not everyone follows these standards, and I recognize that this may be a factor in the proposed restrictions. However, I respectfully urge you not to impose a broad ban that affects responsible anglers as well. Delaware State Parks oversee the vast majority of accessible beaches, and such a restriction would effectively eliminate opportunities for individuals like myself to participate in this sport.

Not everyone has access to a boat or can afford charter fishing—I certainly cannot. I invest hundreds of dollars each year into state park permits and fees to legally enjoy shark fishing from the shore. A ban on kayaking out baits would likely force me to fish in neighboring states such as Maryland or Virginia, which I would strongly prefer to avoid.

Additionally, there has not been a significant increase in shark-related incidents involving people, nor a notable rise in improperly handled sharks washing ashore since DNREC updated regulations around 2010. Based on this, I respectfully question whether a full ban is necessary.

I would like to offer an alternative solution for your consideration. Rather than banning the practice, DNREC could implement a mandatory safety course and permit system for land-based shark fishing, similar to what is required in Florida. This would ensure that anglers are properly educated on safety practices for both people and sharks. It would also provide additional revenue for DNREC and State Parks, while promoting accountability and making it easier to identify and regulate participants.

I strongly urge the committee to consider this balanced approach before moving forward with restrictive measures. There are also other ongoing concerns—such as alcohol use, unsafe driving or boating, littering, and non-compliant beach activity—that may warrant increased attention and enforcement under existing rules.

Please do not take away my passion for shark fishing on Delaware's beautiful beaches. I respectfully ask that you consider education, permits, and enforcement of current regulations before implementing a ban.

Thank you for your time and consideration