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Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 at 9:09:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), [REDACTED]

Comments on Docket #2025-R-P-0017 - State Parks Regulations

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Organization:

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to any proposal that would broadly prohibit or unnecessarily restrict responsible land-based shark fishing from Delaware's beaches. Shore-based shark fishing is a legal and legitimate recreational activity practiced by a relatively small number of anglers who invest significant time in learning proper fish handling, conservation techniques, and applicable regulations. Rather than imposing broad restrictions on all anglers, I encourage DNREC to focus on education, enforcement of existing regulations, and targeted solutions that address unsafe or irresponsible behavior. Many surf anglers who target sharks already follow best practices, including using appropriate tackle to reduce fight times, employing non-stainless circle hooks where required, minimizing handling time, and releasing sharks quickly to maximize survival. These anglers often participate in conservation efforts by reporting catches, following species-specific protections, and educating others about responsible fishing practices. A blanket prohibition would unfairly impact responsible anglers without addressing the root causes of public safety concerns. Existing laws already provide mechanisms to address reckless conduct, harassment of wildlife, or behavior that creates hazards for other beach users. Enforcement of those rules is a more balanced approach than eliminating an activity that can be practiced safely and responsibly. Delaware's beaches serve many recreational users with different interests. Through reasonable regulations, public education, and responsible conduct, activities such as surfing, swimming, surf fishing, and shore-based shark fishing can coexist. If specific concerns exist regarding particular beaches, times of day, or seasons, DNREC should consider narrowly tailored management measures rather than a statewide prohibition. I respectfully ask DNREC to consider the perspectives of responsible anglers and to base any regulatory decisions on scientific evidence, documented safety data, and stakeholder input. Regulations should strike an appropriate balance between conservation, public safety, and preserving recreational fishing opportunities for Delaware residents and visitors. Thank you for considering my comments.