

Malcolm Turnbull can't save the whales but he could save the sharks

Tuesday, 05 June 2007

While Malcolm Turnbull has been outspoken in his attempts to save 50 humpback whales from Japanese whalers, he could easily save the grey nurse shark with a stroke of his pen," environmentalists said today.

"Unlike saving the whales, saving the grey nurse shark lies completely within Mr Turnbull's jurisdiction," Megan Kessler, spokesperson for the Nature Conservation Council said today.

"What better way to celebrate World Environment Day than to save an endangered species from extinction.

"Environmentalists are currently taking the federal government to court for failing to adequately protect an endangered species. The grey nurse shark is critically endangered, yet commercial and recreational fishing is still allowed in the few known areas where it feeds and breeds.

"We are optimistic that the court case will have positive outcomes for the grey nurse shark, but it would save time, money and the lives of many sharks if Mr Turnbull saved the grey nurse shark today.

"To save the grey nurse shark, Mr Turnbull should ensure fishing is banned in important habitat areas where many sharks are being killed from fishing.

The Nature Conservation Council and the Environmental Defender's Office are holding a seminar tonight to explore some of the legal, environmental and scientific issues about this important and interesting legal case.

Date: Tuesday 5 June 2007

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Location: DLA Phillips Fox, 201 Elizabeth Street Sydney (Entry after 6pm is via the door on the corner of Market and Elizabeth Streets)

RSVP: Tisha Dejmanee at education@edo.org.au or (02) 9262 6989