

THE PROBLEM

Wildlife trafficking--including the illicit sale of ivory tusks, horns, and other goods--has been linked to both organized crime and terrorism. Furthermore, the ivory industry is a major contributor to illegal poaching of critical endangered species, including the elephant and rhinoceros.

Though federal bans on ivory are in effect, they do not affect intra-state sales. State laws are needed to close these loopholes.

Other wildlife products, like shark fins, contribute to inhumane practices. Though shark finning--the process of catching sharks, removing their fins, and then releasing them back into the water where they often suffer grisly ends--is already banned, there are no restrictions on the sale of shark fin products.

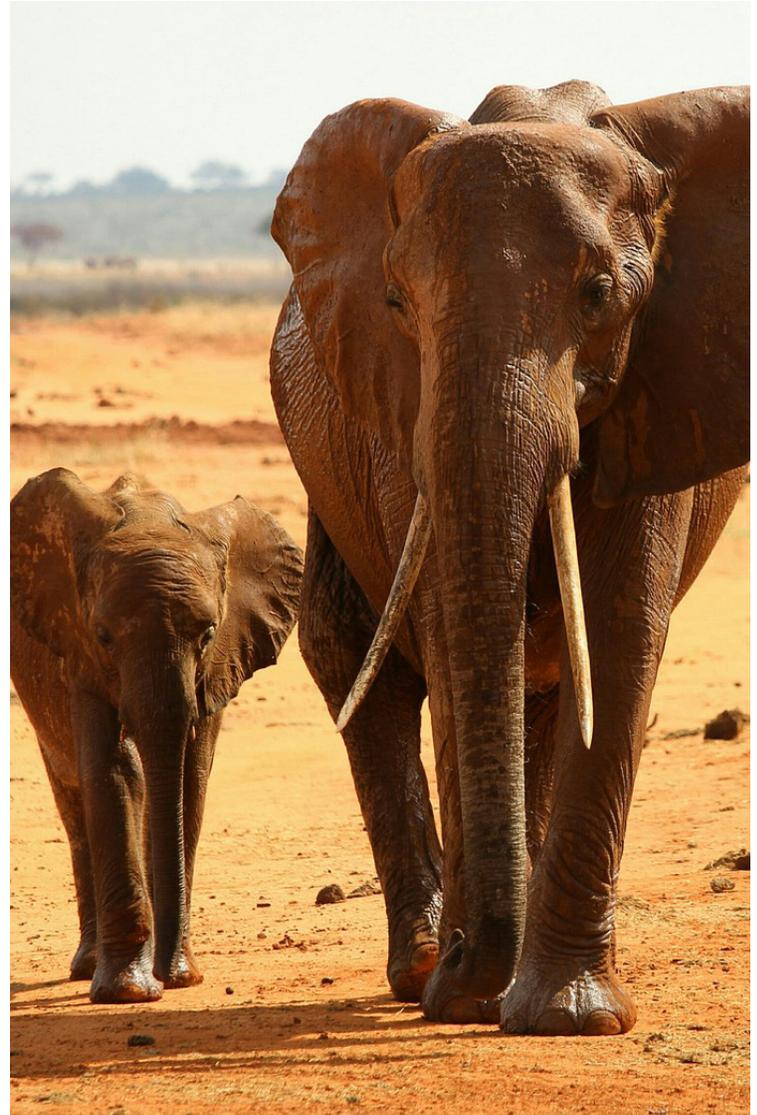
As predators at or near the top of marine food chains, sharks are vital to a healthy marine ecosystem. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because they are slow to reach maturity and produce very few offspring.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

In order to protect endangered species and close dangerous loopholes too often exploited by terrorists and criminals, Connecticut should join California, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington in passing laws to restrict or ban the sale of wild animal products, including ivory and shark fins.

FAST FACTS

- The number of wild elephants dropped by almost a third in the last decade, with nearly **20,000** still being slaughtered for their tusks each year.
- On average, poachers kill one african elephant every **25 minutes**.
- Fins from up to **73 million sharks** are used in shark fin soup every year, and 70 shark species are at risk of extinction.



MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about wildlife issues and trafficking, contact:

Annie Hornish, The Humane Society
CT Senior State Director, State Affairs
860-966-5201 | ahornish@humanesociety.org