

THE PROBLEM

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

Shark finning is the process of removing the fins of live sharks, and then throwing them back into the water. Without their fins, sharks cannot swim and pass water over their gills to breathe, so once finned and discarded, they will slowly die from suffocation and blood loss or predation.

Harvested fins are used to make shark fin soup, a delicacy in many parts of the world—and a dish served off-menu or on “secret menus” at some Connecticut establishments.

This cruel practice is already banned in U.S. waters, but there are no restrictions on the sale of shark fin products. Multiple bills at the national level have failed so it is up to the states to take action against the shark fin trade.



A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut can join other states, including our neighbors in MA, NY, NH, and RI, to enact a similar ban to increase the protection of the species and remove the incentive for the shark fin trade.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about shark finning, contact:

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FAST FACTS

- ◆ Fins from up to 73 million sharks are used in shark fin soup every year, and 70 shark species are at risk of extinction.
- ◆ Shark populations such as hammerhead and oceanic whitetip, have declined by more than 90% due to the shark fin trade.
- ◆ 16 states and U.S. territories have enacted laws to prohibit shark fin trade: California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.