



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5012**  
AA PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF SHARK FINNING  
January 31, 2025

**To:** Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5012** that would ban any person without a license or permit to possess, sell, trade or distribute shark fins.

Shark finning involves fishing sharks at sea and then removing their fins and tails before tossing them back in the water where they slowly die from drowning and blood loss.

New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts have all banned this trade and practice and we need Connecticut to follow suit. A similar bill last year passed out of the Environment Committee but was amended to exclude several important species of sharks under its protection.

CTLCV appreciates the Environment Committee's willingness to move this legislation forward. We believe the bill could be even better without the exemption for Smooth-Hound (Dogfish) sharks.

**Shark finning is already illegal in U.S. waters, but there are no restrictions on the sale of shark fin products.**

◆ 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 the 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.

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.

Multiple bills at the national level have failed so it is up to the states to take action against the shark fin trade.

Connecticut should 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.

CTL CV urges the committee to **SUPPORT HB 5012**. Thank you for considering our comments.

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