



**Over 1/3 of the world has banned shark finning  
New Zealand has not**

**The practice of shark finning is still occurring in New Zealand waters. It is completely legal to kill a shark only for its fins and dump the body at sea.**

**Shark finning is contributing to a rapid and substantial decline in shark populations globally. This is affecting the balance of life in our oceans and damaging marine ecosystems. Nearly 30% of all shark species are now threatened or near-threatened with extinction. Over 1/3 of the world has banned shark finning or shark fishing altogether. Some nations, including many islands in the Pacific, have declared their entire ocean territories as shark sanctuaries.**

**Internationally, over 100 million sharks are killed every year. This number is largely driven by the shark fin trade, which is worth upwards of US\$1.2 billion.**

**New Zealand is one of the top 20 shark-fishing countries in the world, and a major exporter of shark fins to Hong Kong. Recently we have also become the biggest exporter of shark fins to the United States. NZ's shark fin exports are worth around \$4.5 million annually, but this is only a small percentage of NZ's overall \$1.56 billion fishing exports.**

#### **In New Zealand:**

- Over 73 of the 112 shark species in NZ waters are commercially fished
- Only 11 species are managed under the Quota Management System
- 9 species are protected under the Wildlife Act or Fisheries Act
- The remaining species in NZ waters are completely unprotected
- Blue sharks, porbeagles, and shortfin makos are the most common sharks finned in NZ
- All are caught predominately as bycatch in the tuna longline fisheries
- All are listed on the IUCN Red List of threatened species

#### **But doesn't the government have regulations to protect sharks?**

The NZ government has fishing quotas for some of the commercially caught species to prevent overfishing. However, there are serious information gaps in this system, leaving most shark species inadequately managed.

Last year alone, over 1,000,000 kg of Blue sharks were caught in our waters. Yet the stocks of even the most commonly caught sharks have never been properly assessed. This makes it nearly impossible to set accurate quotas and guarantee the species' long-term survival.

#### **What is NZ's responsibility?**

NZ has an international responsibility to institute a National Plan of Action for sharks (NPOA-Sharks). The goal of the NPOA-Sharks is "to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use".

First introduced in 2008, NZ's NPOA-Sharks is required to be reviewed every four years. The first review is happening now. This is our best chance to address the failure of the current NPOA, under which it is still legal to fin and dump sharks in New Zealand waters.

#### **What's being done in NZ to stop shark finning?**

The New Zealand Shark Alliance is an umbrella group of NGOs, unified in a campaign to achieve a ban on shark finning in NZ waters and to protect our sharks.

We're seeking to bring New Zealand shark legislation in line with other countries. We are insisting that all sharks be caught sustainably and that sharks are released alive when possible or landed with their "fins naturally attached". This internationally-recommended approach will stop the wasteful practice of catching sharks only for their fins, provide more accurate fisheries records, reinforce laws against live shark finning, and encourage long-term sustainable fishing.

#### **What can I do?**

You can help the New Zealand Shark Alliance by visiting [www.nzsharkalliance.org.nz](http://www.nzsharkalliance.org.nz), or follow us through the NZSA Facebook page.

- Sign the NZSA pledge
- Support upcoming NZSA events
- Voice your opinion. Use our handy submission guide when the public submission period for the NPOA-Sharks opens. Tell the government you want immediate action to save our sharks
- Spread the word! Tell all your friends and family!