

The Shark Alliance in Lisbon

Conservation of sharks in Europe starts here

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Sharks are

- Important for the ocean ecosystem
- Vulnerable
- Under pressure
- Suffering from bad publicity
- Low priority for politicians



The Pressure on Sharks is Relentless...

Meat



Shark Fin



Soup



Cartilage



The Pressure on Sharks is Relentless

Liver oil



Skin



Other derivatives



Conservation of Sharks in Europe is key

- EU is significant player in global catch, consumption and trade of shark products
- EU shark populations are in bad shape;
- EU policy is “exported” to regional and international forums
- EU still has no management plan for sharks
- EU (by derogation from finning ban) still allows removal of fins on board vessels



Conservation of Sharks Starts Here

- Portugal: second largest fleet in Europe!
- Portugal: one of five EU member states (out of 27) allowing the removal of fins from sharks on board vessels;
- Portugal is a shark fishing nation: shark conservation essential for future of fisheries;
- Portugal: presidency of EU – can take leadership now!



Shark Alliance in Portugal

- Concerned conservation, scientific, diving organizations;
- Dedicated to science-based conservation of sharks;
- Raising awareness & public support for shark conservation;
- Increase reach to Portuguese NGOs;
- Aim: improve shark policy & status of shark populations in Europe and beyond.



Shark Alliance Primary Goals

- Secure & comprehensive EU shark fisheries management plan (including science-based limits & protection for depleted species); and
- Close loopholes in EU shark finning regulation to effectively stop practice & set better examples around the world.



Challenges and Opportunities

- Image of sharks as fierce hunters and their vulnerability;
- EU and Member States: Commission now working on shark management plan - will member states support?
- Environment and Fisheries: Johannesburg agreement: Reverse loss of biodiversity by 2010!



Rays of Hope

- Shark scientists' assessment of catch and trade situation;
- Shark policy experts' view on opportunities for change;
- Portuguese NGOs' perspective and commitment to the conservation of sharks



Conservation of Sharks Starts Here

- If you are a friend of shark fisheries, trade and consumption,
- you also need to be a friend of sharks!
- And your friends need your help!



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