



## Up to 45% of fins exported to Asian markets come from the EU

The EU is a major participant in the fin trade, catching sharks in all parts of the globe and supplying the markets in Hong Kong SAR, Singapore and Taiwan province where an estimated more than 50% of the global shark fin trade passes.

The rule of origin criteria dictates that “sharks caught by an EU vessel outside EU waters be classified as a product of that country. That means, for example, that all catches by the Spanish fleet in EU waters, high seas or other countries’ waters (usually in the frame of a fishing partnership agreement), are classified as Spanish production and will therefore appear in trade data as exports from Spain. It is, of course, impossible to distinguish what is caught in a country’s own territorial waters from catches in EU waters or international seas.”

When one considers that EU vessels fish around the world, it becomes evident why the export numbers are so high.

### EU fleets fish sharks around the world

**An EU regulation to stop the trade of fins will help protect biodiversity and support global shark conservation efforts.**

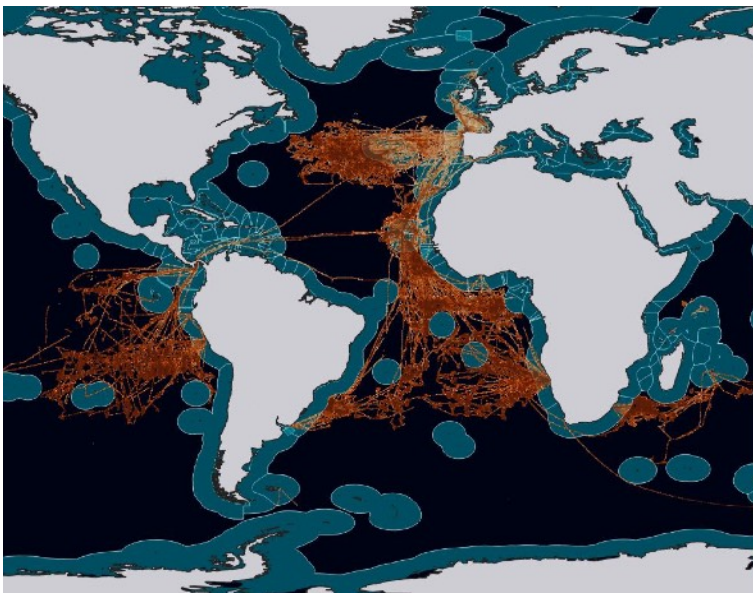
#### Spain

Spanish-flagged longliners work mostly in the North and South Atlantic, but also in the Indian and Pacific oceans. Landing ports are:

Vigo (Spain)  
Peniche (Portugal)  
Horta (Azores, Portugal)  
Mindelo (Cabo Verde)  
Cabedelo (Brasil)  
Montevideo (Uruguay)

Walvis Bay (Namibia)  
Durban (South Africa)  
Port Louis (Mauritius)  
Port Victoria (Seychelles)  
Djakarta (Indonesia)  
Papeete (French Polynesia)  
Callao (Peru)

#### Spanish longline movements 2021



In 2015 there were 228 surface longliners registered in Spain. The Spanish shark fleet includes another 50-60 longliners operating in various areas under other flags (including Namibian, Senegalese, Panamanian, Ecuadorian), but controlled by Spanish interests, usually through joint-ventures. These vessels may not be included in export numbers, since there is a considerable lack of available documentation.

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## **Portugal**

In 2015 50 portuguese large longliners were active in the Atlantic but also Indian and Pacific oceans. 54 longliners over 20 m are registered to ICCAT, 18 to IOTC and 9 to WCPFC. Numerous discrepancies between Spanish and Portuguese data occur: in 2014, for instance, Spain reported 6780 t of imports from Portugal whereas Portugal reported 8415 t exported to Spain.

**Italy** has the highest shark consumption, but it is not a big shark fishing nation. Spain is by far the biggest supplier of that market

**Greece** is a regular destination for Spanish pelagic shark products. However, it is very hard to correctly estimate the country's exact consumption due to major discrepancies in trade data and possible underreporting of fishing activities

**Germany** is not a big shark fishing country but about 300-500 tonnes seem to be consumed yearly.

**France** is an important fishing actor and market for demersal shark species but not a big one for pelagic species

## **DATA DISCREPANCIES**

The import data of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan is considerably different from what the EU reports as export data.

There is a discrepancy between the two datasets range from 1,650.08 tons to 2,318.18 tons. This suggests potential misreporting in the shark fin-related trade

Data Source:

[IFAW Report 2022: Supply and demand: the EU's role in the global shark trade](#)