

# The trading of shark fins from Europe must be stopped!

## Sharks are essential for the marine ecosystem and climate protection!

- 1** Sharks ensure the health of the **ocean-based tourism, fisheries and food security**.
- 2** The oxygen in every second breath we take is produced by the oceans. The extinction of sharks would have a **tremendous impact** on the marine ecosystem, which in turn would negatively affect the **climate and CO2 pollution** in the atmosphere.
- 3** **Protecting resilient** biodiversity and ecosystems and ensuring the sustainability of our blue economy and fisheries sector are **high priorities of the EU Green Deal**.

## Hunting sharks for their fins can only end with a trade ban for loose fins!

- 4** More than **100.000.000 sharks** are killed **every year**, mainly for their fins.
- 5** **167 shark species are threatened with extinction**. The number of sharks in the high seas has **declined by more than 70 %** in the last 50 years.
- 6** The high market value of shark fins is the **only reason** to fish sharks at unsustainable rates and to continue the **cruel practice of 'finning'**, whether it's legal or not.

## The EU is still part of the problem!

- 7** Currently, the Member States Spain, Portugal and France are among the **Top 15 shark-fishing nations of the world** and are often **even subsidised by the EU**.
- 8** Although the **EU has conservation obligations under CITES and CMS**, threatened/protected shark species are entering the market due to current inadequate legislation.
- 9** A legal market for shark fins creates a **loophole for illegal fins**, as origin and species are difficult to trace. Loose shark fins can only be identified with complex and expensive DNA tests.

The current "Fins Naturally Attached" regulation states that fins may not be removed from the body of the shark before landing. This means that loose fins can still be traded and exported. To close this loophole, additional trade legislation is needed to ban the export, import and transit of loose shark fins!

With the change of the regulation the EU fulfills its **conservation obligations**, secures a **sustainable economy** as well as **food security** and becomes **part of the growing community of States, which take these responsibilities seriously**.

ECI "STOP FINNING - STOP THE TRADE"

Email: [info@stop-finning-eu.org](mailto:info@stop-finning-eu.org)

Website: [www.stop-finning-eu.org](http://www.stop-finning-eu.org)

