

STOP FINNING - STOP THE TRADE

What is it about?

STOP FINNING - STOP THE TRADE is an European Citizens Initiative (ECI) that successfully collected over 1.1 million statements of support for sharks. The demand is to end the trade of loose shark fins through additional trade legislation.

Milestones

- ★ January 2023 **Submission** - The initiators handed over 1.119.996 statements of support for a #FinBanNow.
- ★ February 2023 **Meeting with EU Commission** - Representatives of Stop Finning - Stop the trade presented their case to the European Commission.
- ★ March 2023 **Hearing at the EU Parliament** - Representatives of Stop Finning - Stop the Trade presented their case to members of the European Parliament with high profile speakers including Dr Sylvia Earle.
- ★ July 2023 **Reply of the Commission** - The Commission recognizes the importance of sharks and their protection. It announced to launch an impact assessment on the environmental, social and economic consequences of a shark fin ban in the European Union.
- ★ February-May 2024 **Call for Evidence** - 209 submissions from experts were handed in containing 70 scientific papers, reports and studies from 34 countries in support of stronger measures to protect sharks.
- ★ March - June 2024 **Public Consultation** - 3.454 people from 71 countries answered the online questionnaire to complete the first public consultation for the impact assessment.
- ★ July 2024 **First Consultation Event (Spain)** - A targeted consultation event was held in Vigo (Spain) - the heart of Europe's shark fishing industry. The meeting brought together a diverse audience, including local fleet owners, lobbyists, organisations and traders, as well as NGO representatives, resulting in a robust, yet balanced and respectful discussion.

Next steps

We are looking for strong allies in the newly elected EU Parliament and Commission that can guide and assist us through the political challenges and in the process help us empower the voice of 1.1 million EU Citizens. This is a critical step for the EU government - to become part of the growing community of States, which have shown a strong commitment to the conservation of sharks and the world's oceans by taking real action.

Further sources

- ★ Demand (long version) <https://bit.ly/4gx94Yv>
- ★ ZDF Documentary (German) <https://bit.ly/4daV9EJ>
- ★ Communication of the Commission on the ECI <https://bit.ly/3TByU3I>
- ★ Record Parliament hearing <https://bit.ly/3nFwNyS>
- ★ Materials on sharks and their importance: <https://stop-finning-eu.org/resources/>

Contact us info@stop-finning-eu.org