

# The importance of sharks

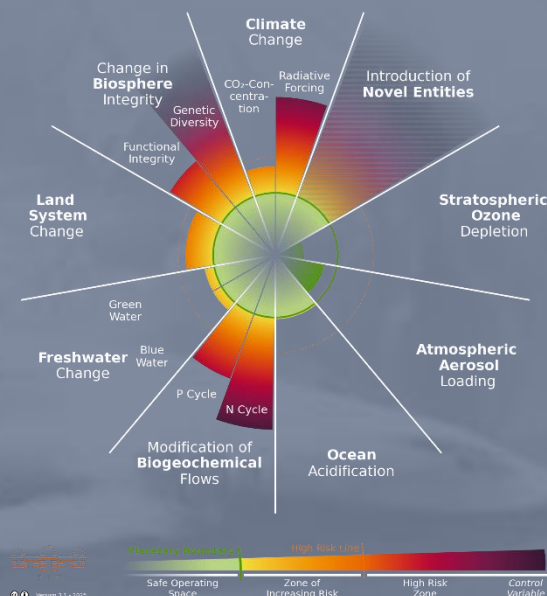
## Ecological

In order to create resilience for oceanic ecosystems and increase their ability to cope with these stressors, biodiversity protection, especially of keystone species (such as sharks), is paramount.

To conserve energy, sharks preferentially hunt for injured or sick fish, which contributes to the health of fish populations [1] and reduces risk of zoonosis; pathogens being passed on to humans. [2] Consequently, for fish populations and food security it is essential to have healthy shark populations in the marine ecosystem.

## Economic

Sharks ensure the health of the oceans for tourism [3], fisheries [4] and food security [5]. Biodiversity loss exceeds the planetary boundary in which humanity can safely operate more than the impacts of climate change. The decreasing resilience of ecosystems and therefore the reduction of ecosystem services they provide, creating large risks to many livelihoods and supply chains.



**The blue economy  
needs healthy  
oceans**

**Healthy oceans  
need sharks!**

**European Green Deal priorities include protecting our biodiversity and ecosystems, [...] [and] ensuring the sustainability of our blue economy and fisheries sectors' [6]. These goals are also part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 [7].**

## Social

With almost 1.12 million people and over 100 NGOs supporting the European Citizens Initiative, Europeans want to see an end to the shark fin trade in Europe. Shark consumption is not part of the European identity. We are a key player in the protection of endangered species and a role model in our support in conservation efforts to other nations. It is time to align with our values.

### Sources:

1. Heupel et al., 2019
2. Souza-Araujo et al., 2021; Hammerschlag et al., 2019
3. Torres et al., 2017
4. Hammerschlag, 2019
5. Pauly et al., 2017; FAO, several reports 2020
6. European Commission, website European Green Deal
7. European Commission, website Biodiversity strategy for 2030

The full details of the sources can be found on [www.stop-finning-eu.org](http://www.stop-finning-eu.org)