



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

## End the Cruel Practice of Shark Finning

**E**very year, in oceans around the world, tens of millions of sharks are hunted to meet the demand for shark fin soup. Sharks' fins are often removed when the animals are still alive; the sharks are then thrown back into the water to endure a painful death from suffocation, blood loss, or predation by other species.

Sharks are apex predators who play an essential role in marine ecosystems. The cruel and ecologically devastating practice of shark finning endangers their survival—and that of the species that rely on them.

### Mounting Exploitation

Sharks are finned to maximize profit. If a fishing crew takes a whole shark, the boat soon runs out of freezer space. If the crew takes only the valuable fins and discards the rest of the shark, it can continue fishing, killing a massive—and unsustainable—number of sharks.



Shark fin soup—a few strands of collagen in chicken broth—can sell for as much as \$100 per bowl. The soup was once consumed only by Chinese emperors and the very elite, but it's now often served at Chinese New Year events, weddings, and other celebrations.

The increasing consumption of shark fin soup may cause public health problems. Laboratory tests on shark fins in Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, and Taiwan have discovered mercury levels that far exceeded the level deemed safe for people. Mercury is a neurotoxin that can cause extensive damage to the nervous system and to fetuses. In addition, one media account has reported that shark fins from China may be processed with industrial chemicals.





RACHEL CHAMBERGUE

### Removing Cruelty from the Menu

A growing number of well-respected Asian establishments no longer serve shark fin soup, including the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Disneyland, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in Hong Kong, and Taiwan's National Palace Museum, as well as the government of Malaysia. High-profile dignitaries are following suit; for example, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou chose not to serve shark fin soup at his inaugural banquet.

### You Can Help

Don't consume shark fin soup or any products containing shark fin. **If you see shark fin on a restaurant menu, ask the manager to stop serving it.** To learn more about how you can help, visit [hsi.org/sharkfin](http://hsi.org/sharkfin).

### About HSI

Humane Society International is the international arm of The Humane Society of the United States, a nonprofit organization backed by more than 10 million people. For more than half a century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. HSI coordinates the work of The HSUS abroad, addressing animal issues that cross many borders and impact billions of animals worldwide.



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