



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

INDIA

Mr. Naresh Goyal
Chairman
Jet Airways

30 May 2014

Re: Policy against transport and shipment of shark fins

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Humane Society International (HSI), I am writing to ask for your help in preserving marine ecosystems and reducing cruelty to animals. **Specifically, we are asking you to stop transporting any and all consignments of shark fins.**

According to studies conducted by the United Nations and European Commission, India is the world's second largest shark catching country, and one of the leading exporters of shark fins. Trade data suggests that large consignments of shark fins are sent to international markets in Thailand, China, Hong Kong, Japan and UAE via air cargo. A considerable number of such shark fins transported by international carriers such as yours are procured by highly unsustainable fishing practices such as long-lining and finning.

The cruel practice of 'finning' involves the slicing off of the fins from a shark and its subsequent disposal back into the ocean. A shark once 'finned' is often still alive, but it can no longer swim. It quickly sinks to the bottom of the ocean where it dies a slow and painful death due to starvation and predation. Recently, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has issued a policy prohibiting the finning of sharks in Indian waters. This policy has made it a punishable offence for fishermen to harvest fins from a shark while still at sea and offenders stand the risk of imprisonment for a term of upto 7 years. A copy of the policy is attached for your reference.

Further, there are 10 species of sharks accorded the highest level of protection as per provisions of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. There are many shark species that are also protected from use in international trade by the provisions of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). However, owing to tremendous international demand for shark fins, these species continue to be hunted.

The key factor to consider about this trade is that due to the nature of shark fins, it is close to impossible to determine if the fins in any given consignment are finned or sustainably sourced (i.e. they have been harvested post- landing of the sharks). Further, it is also a significantly difficult task to determine if the fins being traded have originated from a protected (and endangered) species or not.

In the light of these facts, **we urge you to consider the implementation of a policy against shipment of shark fins by your airlines.** As you may already know, Cathay Pacific Airways took a great step in the right direction in September 2012 by making a public commitment to stop carrying shark fins and related products on its subsidiary airline, Cathay Pacific Cargo. (It has long been banned from the passenger services of Cathay Pacific Airways, Dragonair and Air Hong Kong). In June 2013, five more airlines have followed in Cathay Pacific's brave steps; Korean Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Qantas, Air New Zealand and Fiji Airways. You would be happy to note that on 23 April 2014, Philippines Airlines also declared its intention to stop all shipment of shark fins.

By taking a firm action against shipment of shark fins, you will not only help create awareness about the harmful effects of shark fin trade amongst your patrons, but you will also help provide security for future generations of sharks and for all other animals dependent upon them for survival, including us humans.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or to visit HSI's website, www.hsi.org/sharks. Thank you in advance for your consideration and compassion. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



N.G. Jayasimha
Managing Director
Mobile: (+91) 9490732614
Email: ngjayasimha@hsi.org

Mailing Address:
50/A, Lane No.3, Street No.3
Indian Airlines Colony
Begumpet, Secunderabad-03
Telefax: 040-27902601, 27902602