



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

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National laws, multi-lateral agreements, regional and global regulations on shark protection and shark finning

As of December 2016

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations	Date	Shark Finning Regulations
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	2004	The ICCAT finning ban requires full utilisation (defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing) of entire shark catches. Fins should not total more than 5% of the weight of the sharks onboard. Does not specify if it is whole or dressed weight ¹ . Over 30 countries support proposal for fins attached in 2015 & 2016 but not adopted ² .
General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM)	2006	Same as ICCAT. Requires full utilisation (defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing) of entire shark catches. Fins should not total more than 5% of the weight of the sharks onboard ³ .
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	2005	Same as ICCAT - full utilisation (defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing) of entire shark catches. Fins should not total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard ⁴ .
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	2005	Same as ICCAT - full utilisation (defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing) of entire shark catches. Fins should not total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard ⁵ .
Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SEAFO)	2006	Same as ICCAT - full utilisation (defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing) of entire shark catches. Fins should not total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard ⁶ .
North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	2005	Similar to ICCAT and IATTC ⁷ .
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	2008	Full utilisation (retention of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins), to the first point of landing or transshipment of retained sharks. Fins should make up no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard. Fins may be landed and transhipped separately ⁸ .

¹ <http://www.iccat.int/Documents%5CRecs%5Ccompendiopdf-e%5C2004-10-e.pdf>

² <http://www.iccat.int/com2015/>; <http://www.iccat.int/com2016/>

³ ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/gfcm/web/GFCM_Recommendations2006.pdf

⁴ <http://www.iatcc.org/PDFFiles2/Resolutions/C-05-03-Sharks.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.iotc.org/files/CMM/IOTC%20-%20Compendium%20of%20ACTIVE%20CMMs%2015%20September%202013.pdf>

⁶ http://www.seafo.org/ConservationMeasures/2006%20conservation%20measures/conservation%20measure%2004_06.pdf

⁷ <http://archive.nafo.int/open/fc/2013/fcdoc13-01.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202010-07%20%5BSharks%5D.pdf>

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	2006	Directed fishing on shark species in the Convention Area, for purposes other than scientific research, is prohibited. Incidental catch of sharks taken in other fisheries should be released alive as far as possible ⁹
North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)	2015	The removal of shark fins at sea is prohibited. ¹⁰
Country	Date	Domestic Regulations on Shark Finning
Argentina	2009	The practice of retaining fins and discarding carcasses is banned
Australia	Various	States and Territories govern their own waters, which extend to three nautical miles offshore. Central government regulates 'Commonwealth' (Federal) waters, from three to 200 nautical miles offshore. Most States and Territories ban finning, and some require that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached ¹¹
Belize	2012	Finning banned by Regulation OSP-05-01 in Central American SICA countries
Brazil	2012	Sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached to their bodies
Canada	1994	Finning in Canadian waters and by any Canadian licensed vessel fishing outside Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is prohibited. When landed, the fins must not weigh more than 5% of the dressed weight of the shark
Cape Verde	2005	Shark finning is prohibited throughout the EEZ. Definition of planning and management measures in the official gazette. Integration of objectives from the National Shark Action Plan in the Fishery Management Plan since 2006. In 2016, prohibited removal of fins onboard as well as transshipment and landing of fins. A partial cut and folding of the attached fin is allowed. Also banned fishing of certain (CITES listed) species: <i>Rhincondon typus</i> , <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> , <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> , <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> , <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> , <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> , <i>Carchahinus longimanus</i> , <i>Lamna nasus</i> , <i>Alopias superciliosus</i> . (Decreto-lei no. 16/2016)
Chile	2011	Sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached to their bodies ¹²
Colombia	2007	All sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached to their bodies
Costa Rica	2001-2006	Regulation AJDIP/47-2001 required fins to be landed attached to shark carcasses. This was replaced by AJDIP/415-2003, permitting fins to be landed separately from carcasses, but the "fins-attached" requirement was reinstated in 2006
Dominican Republic	2012	Finning banned by Regulation OSP-05-01 in Central American SICA countries
Ecuador	2004	Directed fishing for sharks is banned in all Ecuadorian waters, but sharks caught in "continental" (i.e. not Galapagos) fisheries may be landed if bycaught. Sharks must be landed with fins attached in all fisheries. A previous ban on trade in shark fins was lifted in 2007

⁹ http://www.ccamlr.org/en/system/files/all_10.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.neafc.org/measures>

¹¹ http://www.pewenvironment.org/uploadedFiles/PEG/Publications/Report/Navigating%20Global%20Shark%20Conservation_Current%20Measures%20and%20Gaps%207%206%2012.pdf

¹² <http://news.discovery.com/animals/sharks/chile-bans-shark-finching-congress-unanimous-110707.htm>

El Salvador	2006	Shark finning is prohibited. Sharks must be landed with at least 25% of each fin still attached in the natural way. The sale or export of fins is prohibited (be they fresh, frozen or dried) without the corresponding body.
European Union	2013	Prohibits finning in EU waters and by EU vessels worldwide. Requires sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached ¹³
Gabon	2015	A decree banning shark finning was ratified according to WCS Gabon.
Gambia	2004	Ban on shark finning in all territorial waters. For sharks captured in Gambian waters, implementation of measures advocating the obligation to land the catch inside the country. Formulation of management measures in the 2008 Fisheries Regulation Law and the implementation decree. National Shark Action Plan not yet official.
Guatemala	2012	Finning banned by Regulation OSP-05-01 in Central American SICA countries.
Guinea	2009	Ban on shark finning in all territorial waters. Establishing a shark fishing license (from 5,000,000 NFG (approx. 1,000 euros in 2005 to 7,500 USD in 2009). Prohibition on fishing the seven species of critically endangered rays and sharks. After having defined measures and activities with respect to the Management and Conservation of Rays and Sharks in Guinea in order to guarantee sustainable exploitation, official adoption of the National Shark Action Plan in 2006.
Guinea-Bissau	2008	Prohibition on shark fishing in protected marine areas. General fisheries law protecting sharks. Official adoption of the National Shark Action Plan in 2008.
Honduras	2012	Finning banned by Regulation OSP-05-01 in Central American SICA countries.
India	2013	Sharks must be landed with their fins attached to their bodies ¹⁴
Malaysia	2014	Finning is prohibited according to Section 8(b) Fisheries Act of 1985 since 2014 according to report provided to CITES AC28.
Maldives	2010	Any shark bycatch that is landed should have fins attached.
Mauritania	2003	Prohibition on shark fishing in 2003 (except for houndsharks: <i>Mustelus mustelus</i> and <i>Leptocharias smithi</i>) in the Banc d'Arguin National Park. Setting a minimum size of 60 centimeters at first capture for houndsharks (<i>Mustelus mustelus</i> and <i>Leptocharias smithi</i>). Within the framework of the IMR-EU agreement, forbidding pole-and-line and surface longline tuna fishers from taking the following species: basking shark, great white shark, sand tiger shark, and school shark. After scientific advice from MIORF and application of the fishing code, official adoption of the National Shark Action Plan in 2007.
Mexico	2007	Shark finning is prohibited. Shark fins must not be landed unless the bodies are on board the vessel. In 2011, Mexico banned shark fishing from May-August each year.
Namibia	2000	Namibia generally prohibits discards of harvested or bycaught marine resources. Namibia's National Shark Plan, adopted in 2003, recommends the formulation of legislation under the Marine Resources Act to prohibit finning of any shark species.

¹³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20121122IPR56237/html/Parliament-closes-loopholes-in-shark-finning-ban>

¹⁴ http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-08-08/pollution/41200717_1_fins-shark-populations-awbi

New Zealand	2014	Banned shark finning (as of Oct 2014 for some species, Oct 2015 for most others, but not until Oct 2016 for blue sharks) ¹⁵ but does not specify ban of removal of fins at sea
Nicaragua	2004	Prohibits vessels from having fins on board or from landing land fins that weigh more than 5% of the total weight of the sharks Those who wish to export fins must first prove that the meat has been sold.
Nigeria	2011	Dumping of shark carcasses at sea is prohibited (Nigeria Sea Fisheries Act 2011)
Oman	Prior to 1999	Sharks must be landed, transported, sold or disposed of whole It is strictly forbidden to throw away any shark part or shark waste in the sea or the shores of the Sultanate of Oman It is also prohibited to land shark fins separated from the body, unless otherwise authorized by competent authority
Panama	2006	Shark finning is prohibited in all Panamanian waters. Industrial fishers must land sharks with fins attached naturally Artisanal fishers may land the fins separately but the weight ratio must be no more than 5% fins to whole weight of sharks
Peru	2016	Sharks must be landed with the head and all fins totally or partially attached naturally to the body. Landing of detached fins or trunks without fins is prohibited. (Decreto Supremo No. 021-2016-PRODUCE)
Senegal	2006	Listing three species of sawfish on the list of protected species. Proposal to set species size at first capture: scalloped hammerhead (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>): 140 cm for males and 165 cm for females; blackchin guitarfish (<i>Rhinobatos cémiculus</i>): 106 cm for males and 100 cm for females. Official adoption of the National Shark Action Plan in 2006.
Seychelles	2006	Fins may not be removed onboard a vessel unless authorisation is granted Applicants are required to produce evidence that they have the capacity to utilise all parts of the shark Fins may not be transshipped Fins landed separately from carcasses must weigh no more than 5% (after evisceration) or 7% (after evisceration and beheading)
Sierra Leone	2008	Shark finning banned. Establishing licenses specifically for sharks. Prohibition on landing juveniles. Implementation of a tax on exports of shark products. Increasing mesh size in shark fishing nets (300 millimeters of stretched mesh) Official adoption of the National Shark Action Plan in 2008.
South Africa	1998	Sharks caught in South African waters must be landed, transported, sold or disposed of whole (they can be headed and gutted) However, fins from sharks caught in international waters may be landed in South Africa with fins detached from carcasses with an 8% ratio for domestic vessels and a 5% ratio for foreign vessels
Spain	2002	It is illegal to have shark fins onboard without the corresponding carcasses Compliance is verified through the use of a conversion system of fins to carcass weight
Sri Lanka	2001	Sharks must be landed with fins attached to body (Sri Lanka NPOA 2013)
Taiwan	2012/2013	All sharks must be landed with fins naturally attached. For freezer vessels, this will go into effect on January 1, 2013 ¹⁶ , amended in Oct. 2013 to allow small scale longline fisheries to land sharks with fins naturally attached OR tied to carcasses.
United Arab Emirates	2014	All 3 species of hammerheads, oceanic white tips and mantas are now fully protected in UAE waters. No shark products of any sort can be exported from sharks caught in UAE waters. All exports and re-exports of shark fins are now banned from the UAE. The fishing ban is now from February 1st to June 30th of every year
United Kingdom	2009	All sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached
United States	2011	All sharks must be landed with their fins fully or partially attached in the natural way in all federal waters (with an exemption for smooth dogfish)
Venezuela	2012	Sharks must be brought to port with their fins naturally attached

¹⁵ http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11154753

¹⁶ <http://newsfeed.time.com/2011/12/01/taiwan-to-become-first-asian-nation-to-ban-shark-finining/>

Yemen	2007	Required to retain 5% of the body weight of the shark
Country	Date	Bans on shark fishing
American Samoa	2012	Catch and possession of sharks within three nautical miles of the shoreline banned in November, 2012
Bahamas	2011	All commercial shark fishing, sale and trade in shark products was banned in the Bahamas in July 2011
Brunei	2013	Department of Fisheries and Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources will enforce the ban on harvesting of all shark species in Brunei waters, and the government will also now officially enforce the ban on the importation and trade of shark products which has been in place since August 2012 ¹⁷
Congo-Brazzaville	2001	All shark fishing is prohibited in Congo-Brazzaville
Cook Islands	2012	The Cook Islands banned the possession, sale and trade of shark products and all commercial shark fishing
Dutch Caribbean islands of Bonaire and Saba	2015	The Dutch government announced a marine sanctuary around the islands of Bonaire and Saba where sharks and marine mammals are protected
Egypt	2005	Shark fishing is prohibited throughout Egyptian Red Sea territorial waters to 12 miles from the shore as is the commercial sale of sharks
French Polynesia	2006/ 2012	In 2006, French Polynesia banned shark fishing (except for mako sharks) and trade in all sharks (again except makos). In 2012, fishing and trade in makos was also banned.
Honduras	2010	All shark fishing is banned
Israel	1980	All elasmobranchs are protected in Israeli waters (all shark fishing and finning illegal)
Kiribati	2016	Commercial fishing of any kind will be banned in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area and in the area around the southern Line Islands beginning January 1 st , 2015 and in November 2016, commercial shark fishing banned in its EEZ. Also bans the possession, trade and sale of shark products and the use of wire leaders. ¹⁸
Kuwait	?	Shark fishing is prohibited for all species except graceful shark and grey sharpnose shark. Finning is prohibited for all species.
Maldives	2010/2014	Ban on fishing, extracting, capturing and harming any shark species (2010) and rays and skates (2014) from Maldives EEZ
Marshall Islands	2011	All commercial shark fishing, sale of shark products, and retention of sharks caught incidentally is prohibited
Micronesia (FSM)	2015	Sharks are protected in the EEZ of the Federated States of Micronesia (Public Law 18-108)

¹⁷ <http://mail.brudirect.com/national/national/national-headlines/6141-brunei-s-move-to-ban-shark-fishing-called-heroic-act>

¹⁸ http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/11/29/kiribati-announces-worlds-second-largest-shark-sanctuary?hd&utm_campaign=2016-12-01+Latest+-+Written&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew

Palau	2009	All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau
Raja Ampat, Indonesia	2010/ 2013	All shark fishing is prohibited in Raja Ampat, Indonesia in 2010, trade in sharks and manta rays as well as fishing of manta rays banned in February 2013
Saudi Arabia	?	All shark fishing is prohibited
Tokelau	2011	All shark fishing is prohibited
Turks and Caicos	2015	Banned exports of sharks (amendment to territorial fishing regulations)
United Arab Emirates	2008	Shark fishing banned from January 1 – April 30 of each year, sharks must be landed whole the rest of the year
Virgin Islands (UK)	2014	Commercial fishing of sharks and rays banned in British Virgin Island waters effective May 22, 2014.
Area	Year	Bans on the sale of shark fins and products
India	2015	Export of all shark fins prohibited
Illinois, USA	2013	State bill banning shark fins went into effect on January 1 st , 2013 ¹⁹
Bahamas	2011	All commercial shark fishing, sale and trade in shark products was banned in the Bahamas in July 2011
Canada	2011	Brantford, London, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Pickering and Toronto have banned the possession and sale of shark fins
Canada	2012	Abbotsford, Coquitlam, Duncan, City of Langley, Township of Langley, Maple Ridge, Nanaimo, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Port Moody and White Rock have banned the possession and sale of shark fins
California, USA	2011/ 2013	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in October 2011, California Federal Court upheld law banning shark fins in 2013
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	2011	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in January 2011 (with an exception for subsistence fishing)
Cook Islands	2012	Banned the possession, sale and trade of shark products and all commercial shark fishing
Egypt	2005	Shark fishing is prohibited throughout Egyptian Red Sea territorial waters to 12 miles from the shore as is the commercial sale of sharks
French Polynesia	2006	In 2006, French Polynesia banned shark fishing (except for mako sharks) and trade in all sharks (again except makos)
Guam	2011	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in March 2011 (with an exception for subsistence fishing)

¹⁹ <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=4119&GAID=11&DocTypeID=HB&SessionID=84&GA=97>

Hawaii, USA	2010	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins is prohibited in the state as of July 1, 2010
Kiribati	2016	Commercial shark fishing ban also bans the possession, trade and sale of all shark products. ²⁰
Marshall Islands	2011	All commercial shark fishing, sale of shark products, and retention of sharks caught incidentally is prohibited
Massachusetts, USA	2014	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited (with an exception for locally caught species including skate, smooth hound sharks and spiny dogfish)
Oregon, USA	2011	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited (with an exception for dogfish)
Washington, USA	2011	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in May 2011
Maryland, USA	2013	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in May, 2013 (with an exception for dogfish)
Delaware, USA	2013	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in May, 2013 (with an exception for dogfish)
New York, USA	2013	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited (with an exception for dogfish)
American Samoa	2012	Sale, possession, and distribution of fins and other shark parts prohibited in November, 2012
Rhode Island, USA	2016	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited (with an exception for dogfish)
Texas, USA	2015	Possession, sale and trade of shark fins was prohibited in June 2015
Virgin Islands (UK)	2014	Sale and trade in shark products banned effective May, 2014.
Multi-lateral agreements	Date	Recommendations/Resolutions on shark finning
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	1999	The International Plan of Action for sharks calls on all States to minimise waste and discards, such as through requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	2007	Calls on all States to consider requiring sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached
IUCN - World Conservation Union	2008	Calls on States with fisheries that capture sharks, whether in directed fishery activities or as accidental by-catch of other fisheries, to require at the point of first landing that sharks be landed only if their fins are naturally attached to their bodies, though allowing for partial detachment of fins to permit efficient storage and species identification
United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement	2010	Calls on all States to consider requiring sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached

²⁰ http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/11/29/kiribati-announces-worlds-second-largest-shark-sanctuary?hd&utm_campaign=2016-12-01+Latest+-+Written&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew

