



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01858**

BY: **MR. DONNELLY (PORT MOODY-COQUITLAM)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 20, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **TERRY BEECH**

Response by the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

FISHING INDUSTRY

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada agrees that sharks are a critical component of the ecosystem and as such it promotes shark conservation in both domestic and international waters. The Government does not support shark finning, a wasteful practice that can have significant impacts on the sustainability of shark stocks. The act of removing the fins from sharks and discarding the rest of the carcass is prohibited in Canada and this is enforced through the monitoring of all shark landings. By March of 2018, all pelagic shark landings in Canada will require the fins to remain naturally attached to the carcass. Canada will also continue to work with other nations to ban shark finning internationally.

The Government of Canada takes its role in the protection of species at risk very seriously.

Canada, as a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten a species' long-term survival. Porbeagle shark, Oceanic Whitetip shark, Hammerhead, the Great White shark, the Whale shark and the Basking shark are all listed on Appendix II of the Convention. Countries exporting any of these species must prove the sustainability of their country's harvest, and issue export permits for international trade. Canada takes seriously its legal obligation to prevent the import of products from these shark species.

Canada maintains strong management regimes for all shark species in Canadian waters. Only a few shark species are harvested in Canada, including spiny dogfish in directed fisheries and porbeagle shark, shortfin mako shark and blue shark as by-catches in other groundfish and pelagic longline fisheries. These harvests are carefully managed, based on the best scientific advice, and they allow Fisheries and Oceans Canada to monitor shark populations in order to ensure their conservation. Harvesting and reporting is consistent with our domestic and international obligations. An outright ban on the possession or trade in shark fins would result in a wasteful practice of discarding fins from legal and sustainable fisheries.

Canada promotes the full utilisation of all fish that are caught legally and sustainably. Canada restricts or bans the trade, possession or sale of shark products from species which are protected under either CITES or Species At Risk Act, or those that would present human health or food safety concerns.