

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor



RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

31-11-319

March 9, 2011

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
I Mina' Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96932

3-10-11
3:40 pm
JD

2011 MAR 11 AM 7:35
-lle

Dear Madam Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR), entitled: "AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 63101 AND 63129, AND TO ADD NEW §§ 63114.1, 63114.2, 63114.3, 63114.4 AND 63114.5, ALL OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS", which I signed into law on March 9, 2011 as **Public Law 31-10**.

In enacting this legislation into law, I agree with *I Mina' Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* that protection of sharks and rays is vital both for preservation of Guam's natural marine resources and as a generally humane act as well. However, I must insist we recognize that our local fisherman population does not currently engage in the practice of finning sharks, nor has this activity ever been part of Guam's cultural traditions. Guam's fishing community has acted responsibly and not engaged in shark finning, but instead has only performed occasional and reasonably managed shark fishing for subsistence, traditional or cultural sharing purposes, which have been understandably exempted from the prohibitions of this Act. Therefore I sign this bill into law with the understanding this legislation is intended to address concerns that foreign-based commercial fishermen might undertake shark finning in Guam's regional waters. It is also understood and acknowledged that this law is not directed to any incidental or eventual removal of a fin after a local fisherman has legally and appropriately landed a whole shark. Of course, the practice this law seeks to stop is strictly that of landing a shark, cutting off its dorsal fin, and then tossing the shark back into the water to suffer a slow and painful death. This law should now complement existing federal statutes prohibiting the landing of sharks without fins attached. As such, I am pleased to uphold the intent of this legislation by signing it into law.

Senseramente,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

Attachment: copy of Bill

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

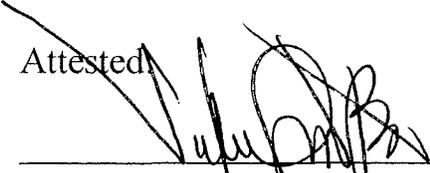
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO **AMEND §§ 63101 AND 63129, AND TO ADD NEW §§ 63114.1, 63114.2, 63114.3, 63114.4 AND 63114.5, ALL OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS**", was on the 24th day of February, 2011, duly and regularly passed.



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker

Attested


Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* this 25th day of Feb, 2011, at

7:14 o'clock 2 .M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'lahaen's Office

APPROVED:


EDWARD J.B. CALVO
I Maga'lahaen Guåhan

Date: MAR 09 2011

Public Law No. 31-10

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on Rules,
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs,
and Human & Natural Resources,
and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz
R. J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
Chris M. Duenas
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A.Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 63101 AND 63129, AND TO *ADD*
NEW §§ 63114.1, 63114.2, 63114.3, 63114.4 AND 63114.5,
ALL OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING
THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE,
TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS
AND RAY PARTS.**

1

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

1 **Section 1. Definitions.** New items (x), (y), (z), (aa) and (bb) are hereby
2 *added* to §63101 of Article 1, Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to
3 read as follows:

4 “(x) *Ray* is defined as animals in the Order Myliobatiformes,
5 including, but *not* limited to, Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*), Manta Rays
6 (*Manta birostris*) and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).

7 (y) *Shark* is defined as an animal commonly known as a shark and
8 includes all animals in the Orders Hexanchiformes, Pristiophoriformes,
9 Squatiniforms, Heterodontiformes, Orectolobiformes, Lamniformes and
10 Carcharhiniformes.

11 (z) *Shark Fin* is defined, for the purpose of this Act, as the fin or
12 tail of a shark that has been removed from the body.

13 (aa) *Ray Part* is defined as any part of a ray.

14 (bb) *Shark Finning* is defined as the taking of a shark, removing the
15 fin or fins (whether or not including the tail) of a shark, and returning the
16 remainder of the shark to the sea.”

17 **Section 2. Shark Fins.** A new §63114.1 is hereby *added* to Article 1,
18 Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

19 “**§63114.1. Shark Fins.**

20 (a) It *shall* be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for
21 sale, take, purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute
22 shark fins in Guam.

23 Restaurants in possession of shark fins which are prepared for
24 consumption upon the enactment of this Act, may sell or offer for sale such
25 shark fins for a period of ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act.

26 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), any person with a valid license
27 or permit issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct

1 research and who possesses shark fins *shall not* be held in violation of this
2 Act.

3 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a person in possession of a
4 shark for subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes *shall not*
5 be held in violation of this Act.”

6 **Section 3. Ray Parts.** A new §63114.2 is hereby *added* to Article 1,
7 Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

8 **“§63114.2. Ray Parts.**

9 (a) It *shall* be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for
10 sale, take, purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute ray
11 parts in Guam.

12 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), any person with a valid license
13 or permit issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct
14 research and who possesses ray parts *shall not* be held in violation of this
15 Act. Research data and findings made pursuant to a license or permit shall
16 be reported to *I Maga’lahi* and *I Liheslatura* as a condition of the license or
17 permit.

18 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a person in possession of ray
19 parts for subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes *shall not*
20 be held in violation of this Act.”

21 **Section 4. Shark Feeding Prohibited.** A new §63114.3 is hereby *added*
22 to Article 1, Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

23 **“§63114.3. Shark Feeding Prohibited.**

24 (a) It *shall* be unlawful for any person to conduct any activity
25 related to the feeding of sharks in Guam’s territorial marine waters.

26 (b) Persons engaged in the taking of marine life that results in
27 captured, injured, or dead fish being incidentally eaten by sharks *shall not* be

1 considered in violation of this Section; provided, that the purpose of the
2 taking of marine life is *not* the feeding of sharks.

3 (c) Chumming or feeding fish for the purpose of harvesting marine
4 species is permitted.

5 (d) As used in this Section:

6 *Commercial activity* means to engage in any action or to
7 attempt to engage in any action for compensation in any form. The
8 action or actions may include, but are *not* limited to, providing, or
9 attempting to provide, guide services, charters, tours, and
10 transportation to and from the location or locations for which such
11 services are provided.

12 *Compensation* means money, barter, trade, credit, and other
13 instruments of value, goods, and other forms of payment.

14 *Feeding* means the introduction of or an attempt to introduce
15 any food or other substance into the water to attract marine life for
16 any purpose other than to take the marine life.”

17 **Section 5. Rules and Regulations.** A new §63114.4 is hereby *added* to
18 Article 1, Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

19 **“§63114.4. Rules and Regulations.**

20 The Director of the Department of Agriculture *shall* develop rules and
21 regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Adjudication Act (AAA),
22 Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 9, to carry out the provisions of this
23 Act. Such rules and regulations may be revisited annually for revision
24 through the AAA process.”

25 **Section 6. Consultation.** A new §63114.5 is hereby *added* to Article 1,
26 Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

27 **“§63114.5. Consultation.**

1 Every five (5) years this Act *shall* be reviewed by the Department of
2 Agriculture to determine if changes are necessary. In so doing, the
3 Department *shall* consult with the University of Guam Marine Laboratory,
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, local fishermen,
5 including the Guam Fishermen’s Co-Operative Association, the Marianas
6 Underwater Fishing Federation, and the Guam Organization of Salt Water
7 Anglers, to have local input to balance scientific data presented.

8 The report *shall* be forwarded to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* thirty (30)
9 days after completion.”

10 **Section 7. Penalties.** §63129 of Article 1, Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam
11 Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

12 “**§63129. Penalty.**

13 (a) Any person violating §63104, §63105, §63106, §63107,
14 §63108, §63114.1 or §63114.2 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable
15 by imprisonment of *not more than* five (5) years, or by a fine of *not less than*
16 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), *nor more than* Five Thousand Dollars
17 (\$5,000), or by both, per violation.

18 (b) Any person violating §63114.3 of this Chapter or any rule
19 adopted thereunder *shall* be subject to:

20 (1) seizure and forfeiture of a commercial marine license,
21 vessel, or shark feeding equipment; and

22 (2) an administrative fine of *at least* Twenty-five Thousand
23 Dollars (\$25,000) per violation; *provided*, that the violator may be
24 assessed administrative fees and costs and attorneys fees and costs.

25 (c) Any person violating §§ 63606.1 or 63606.2 of this Chapter
26 *shall* be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof may be imprisoned

1 for *not more than* five (5) years, or fined *not more than* One Hundred
2 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both.

3 (d) A violation of any other provision of this Article or its
4 supporting regulations *shall* be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon
5 conviction thereof, *shall* be punishable by a fine of *not less than* Fifty
6 Dollars (\$50), *nor more than* Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), or by
7 imprisonment of *not more than* ninety (90) days, or by both fine and
8 imprisonment. In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components,
9 equipment for their manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish
10 products gathered through the use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances
11 including aircraft, vehicles and vessels used for their transport *shall* be
12 subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by an authorized government of
13 Guam official under process issued by the Superior Court, *except* that such
14 seizure without such process may be made when the seizure is incidental to
15 an arrest or a search pursuant to a search warrant, or as provided by § 63128
16 of this Article.”

17 **Section 8. Severability.** *If* any provision of this law or its application to
18 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to Law, such
19 invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions or applications of this law which can be
20 given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the
21 provisions of this Law are severable.

6

I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Date: 2/24/11

VOTING SHEET

SBill No. 44-31(COR)

Resolution No. _____

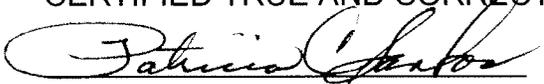
Question: _____

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>NOT VOTING/ ABSTAINED</u>	<u>OUT DURING ROLL CALL</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
ADA, Thomas C.	✓				
ADA, V. Anthony	✓				
BLAS, Frank F., Jr.	✓				
CRUZ, Benjamin J. F.	✓				
DUENAS, Christopher M.	✓				
GUTHERTZ, Judith Paulette	✓				
MABINI, Sam	✓				
MUNA-BARNES, Tina Rose	✓				
PALACIOS, Adolpho Borja, Sr.	✓				
PANGELINAN, vicente (ben) cabrera	✓				
RESPICIO, Rory J.	✓				
RODRIGUEZ, Dennis G., Jr.	✓				
SILVA TAIJERON, Mana	✓				
WON PAT, Judith T.	✓				
YAMASHITA, Aline A.	✓				

TOTAL

15 0 0 0 0

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:


 Clerk of the Legislature

* 3 Passes = No vote
 EA = Excused Absence

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

February 21, 2011

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
I Mina' trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

2011 FEB 21 AM 9:27
GJM

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 44-31 (COR) As Substituted

Hafa Adai Speaker Won Pat:

The Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources hereby reports out its findings and recommendations on **Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR) –B.J.F. Cruz – “AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2, §63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.”**

Committee votes are as follows:

 4 TO DO PASS
 0 TO NOT PASS
 4 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
 0 TO ABSTAIN
 0 TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Very Truly Yours,


Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

**COMMITTEE
REPORT
ON
SUBSTITUTE BILL NO. 44-31 (COR)**
(Sponsor: Benjamin J.F. Cruz)

**“AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE
POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR
SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF
SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY
AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND
ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2,
§63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63
OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED.”**

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

February 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio
Committee Chairperson

Subject: Committee Report – Bill No. 44-31 (COR) As Substituted

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the report on **Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR) –Benjamin J.F. Cruz – “AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2, §63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.”**

This report includes the following supporting documents:

- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 44-31 (COR) As Substituted
- Copy of Bill No. 44-31 (COR)
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Written Testimony on Bill No. 44-31 (COR)
- Referral of Bill No. 44-31 (COR)
- Fiscal Note for Bill No. 44-31 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Agenda

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
 COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
 AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guãhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR) –B.J.F. Cruz – “AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2, §63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.”

	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Rory J. Respicio Chairperson		2/18/11 				
Senator Judith P. Guthertz Vice-Chairperson						
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Member		02/18/11				
Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member		2/21/11				
Legislative Secretary Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member		2/18/11				
Senator Thomas C. Ada Member						
Senator vicente c. pangelinan Member						
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, JR. Member						
Senator Adolpho B. Palacios Member				2/21/11		
Senator Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D. Member				2/21/11		
Senator Christopher M. Duenas Member				2/21/11		

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO

MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 44-31 (COR) - "An act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.1 and §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated" was introduced by Senator Benjamin J.F. Cruz on January 21, 2011; and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesia Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources on the same day.

Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign and Micronesia Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources convened a public hearing on Bill 44 on Tuesday, February 1, 2010 at 5:30 P.M. in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room to receive public testimony on the measure.

Public Notice Requirements

In accordance with the Open Government Law, notices were disseminated to all senators and to all main media broadcasting outlets on January 25, 2011 and January 28, 2011. Notices were also issued to various public and private entities.

Senators Present

Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D, Member
Senator Thomas C. Ada, Member
Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan, Member
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Member
Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Member
Senator Anthony V. Ada

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing on Bill No. 44-31 (COR) was Called-to-Order at 5:30 P.M.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: I'm anxious to get started. I want to quickly reconvene the recess we earlier had on this public hearing. So the Committee on Rules, Natural Resources,

Federal, Foreign & Micronesia Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources shall come to order for the purposes of hearing Bill 44-31. I want to welcome all of you to the Legislature. I want to thank good friend and colleague Senator Tony Ada for being here and hopefully we have another, we would be able to get some other senators to join us tonight.

First let me apologize on behalf of Vice Speaker Cruz, as you know he's off island tending to his 92 year old mother. He did say though that he would be watching the video and he would still participate throughout this legislative process, up until the bill is ready to go to the floor. But although he's off island, I want to recognize his staff, particularly Mike Lidia, who I always tell people he's a maniac. Maniac in a good way, you know because any issue that he and Vice Speaker, or he's pushing on behalf of his boss, the Vice Speaker, he's really been on top of.

I want to welcome Mr. Shark here tonight. I know we're going to be saying some good things and some people might be saying some bad things about how the bill may not be important and I want you to recognize that people are entitled to their opinions. So if you hear something that you might not necessarily agree with, just kind of acknowledge that that person is saying that and then we can take it from there.

So I want to quickly read the sponsor's statement, so the Vice Speaker writes: "As the main sponsor of Bill Number 44-31, I must first apologize for my absence; however I am very grateful that so many people have come to testify regarding this bill. As such I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce far reaching legislation that may improve the ocean environment for generations to come.

As a resident of Guam, I realize that my existence is only a strand of time when compared with the life history of sharks and our environment. Sharks have existed on Earth for more than 400 million years."

Is he that old? Maybe older? (pointing at SSHS's Shark mascot)

"100 million years before the first dinosaurs appeared on land. The shark has evolved from the Devonian period to present day as a predator that contributes to the balance of healthy ecosystems. Unfortunately, the shark has fallen victim to humans.

Shark finning has increased during the last decade for shark fin soup. Each year, humans kill more than 100 million sharks worldwide for their fins. One pound of dried shark fin can retail for \$300 or more. It is a multi-billion dollar industry that spares no shark, regardless of size or species.

This unsustainable fishing harvests massive quantities of sharks faster than their reproductive abilities can replenish their populations. As top predators, sharks help manage healthy ocean ecosystems. As shark numbers decline, the ocean may suffer unpredictable and devastating consequences to coral reefs, fish populations, sea grass beds, and the overall health of the ocean ecosystem. Undoubtedly, healthy oceans depend on sharks.

Similar to their cousins the shark, the life history of rays makes them highly susceptible to over fishing, even more so than some of their cousins. A single fishing fleet can easily wipe out a local ray population in weeks and months with little chance to rebound given their slow reproduction, limited local populations, and lack of migration for some of the species.

The slow maturation and reproductive cycles of rays have raised serious concerns for the future of these species. Growing demand for rays is due to the loss of regional sharks. This has transformed subsistence and localized ray fishing in to a global, commercialized export operation. Though rays are targeted for their meats, skin, and cartilage, they are primarily targeted for their gills to be used in traditional Chinese medicine. One kilogram of gill from a mature ray sells for up to 200 dollars in the dried seafood markets of China. The surge in popularity is making dried and ground grills, gills rather, even more valuable than shark fins.

Bill Number 44-31 (COR) was introduced as a step towards protecting sharks and rays, thereby allowing their populations to recover in order to restore the health of our oceans. Equally important is that this legislation was developed and introduced as an extension of laws established in the CNMI, Hawaii, and federal law to protect sharks. As such, Bill Number 44-31 (COR) works in unison with established laws to protect our marine environment so that generations of humans may enjoy the ocean for generations to come.

Thank you all for participating this public hearing. Sincerely, Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Vice Speaker of the Legislature.

(applause) Was that for the statement or for my reading of the statement? Both?

Anyway I'd like to recognize the Committee of the, member of the Committee of Rules and this committee, Senator Chris Duenas and also another committee member, Senator Tom Ada.

So I'll take the witnesses, I mean the testimony in the order you signed up. And I'd like to call Milan Felipe II, Jordan Weddington, Natividad Rosario, Jamisha Iglesias, Karen Johnson. That's a U.S. Attorney, that is, please step forward. And the first one who signed

up to testify is Mr. Rob Stewart himself so I'd like to direct your attention to the overhead so we can hear from... go ahead....

Rob Stewart: Hi, I'm Rob Stewart. Thank you for the opportunity to issue a statement. Sharks have been on the planet for over 400 million years. They predate the dinosaurs by 150 million years and have survived five major extinctions. The oceans give us more than 50% of the oxygen in the air that we breathe. We know that sharks are some of the oldest, longest lasting, most important predators the planet has in the most important ecosystem for human survival – yet their population has dropped 90%.

This is an opportunity for Guam to take a stance on the preservation of sharks worldwide by banning shark fins. The preservation of sharks is important not just for the oceans but for future generations, for the importance of fisheries, and for the worldwide health of our ocean's ecosystems.

We know that the removal of sharks causes the death of coral reefs, very important for tourism dollars in places like Guam and around the world. Please support this bill and ensure our oceans are happy and healthy for future generations.

Senator Rory Respicio: I would like to also recognize and thank Speaker Won Pat for joining us this evening. She is not only a member of this committee but also chairs the very important Committee on Education. Thank you Madame Speaker.

We'll start with Milan Filipe II.

Milan Filipe II: So they're saying that sharks are very dangerous. It's merely a tale and its false. In definition, shark finning is the practice of cutting off the shark's fins and throwing the body back in to the water. That's a very cruel practice. Just imagine someone cutting off your limbs and leaving you to die of pain and starvation. This is exactly what the sharks go through. So why do something to a shark that you wouldn't do to your fellow man?

Yes, I understand that it is illegal to fin sharks but allowing the import of these fins in to our island is telling them that it's still okay because we support them. We support the multi-million, multi-billion dollar industry. Is it because of the money? We all have morals and our morals tell us that this is wrong.

We're supporting the greed that has put 90% of the shark population in decline. Well, I for one, will not stand for the end of the species so that we may live because in actuality, we need sharks to live. They consume the fish that consume phytoplankton. These phytoplankton consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

There needs to be regulation of these fish so we should start a difference now. Be part of the beginning of an end. Because like I've always been told when I was a little kid: if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Senator Rory Respicio: Thank you for your testimony. I want to recognize Senator Rodriguez, who's also a member of the committee, and former Speaker and current Senator, Ben Pangelinan, also a member of the committee and he chairs the Committee on Appropriations, so you want to get to know him also. And Senator Rodriguez chairs the Committee on Health and other committees.

Thank you, sir. You're next, Jordan Weddington.

Jordan Weddington: I am in favor of Bill 44-31. Sharks are and have always been the top of the food chain for millions of years and have survived five mass extinctions. Sharks have changed through all these years to become better hunters towards fish and marine life. Not one shark has changed to be a better hunter towards humans. On that same note, not one shark has changed to face all the dangers humans give to them. They do not know of the harms possible to them, they do not know that a bottle isn't a fish or that aluminum can isn't another fish.

Sharks are worldwide and need to be protected. Over 90% of the sharks have been killed, most for the fins, and they often die a slow and painful death. Sharks do not reproduce as easily as other animals do and some it takes about two years. Hawaii is the first place in the world to ban shark finning and the possession of shark fins. Saipan is the second and Guam will be the third.

We will fight for this bill to become law; we want sharks in our future. A quote from the maker of the *Sharkwater* video, Rob Stewart, where is it... "The thing we fear the most is the thing we can't live without. We need to ban the importation and trade of shark fins. We have total of two thousand one hundred and eleven signatures from our school in support of this bill and we have 71 signatures from St. John's. Sadly, they couldn't attend this tonight because they had a boat trip scheduled for this day.

(Voice from audience, indecipherable)

Senator Rory Respicio: Oh, they're here?

Jordan Weddington: Awesome. So, they're here? Awesome. And that's it.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. We'd like to recognize the next person to testify, Natividad Rosario

Natividad Rosario: I'm Natividad Rosario. I'm in favor of Bill 44-31. The reason why is because if we still allow the import and export of shark fins and ray parts, it will like still make other people think it's okay to do it and its really not, because we do need the sharks and rays because they are a big part of the ecosystem and we need them.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Before I (indecipherable conversation) Jamisha Iglesias

Jamisha Iglesias: I, Jamisha Iglesias, strongly support Bill 44-31 (indecipherable) ...shark finning is considered to be a wasteful passion of catching a shark, removing its fins and then discarding the body back in to the ocean. Keeping in mind that the shark is still alive during the removal of its fins and it is left to suffer in the end.

Shark fins are used in soup and have no flavor added at all. As a matter of a fact, the fins are only used to give the soup a gelatinous base, in which there is no decent purpose in the soup to begin with. Although we do not shark fin on island, we do allow the trading and selling of shark fin soup, in which it's just like saying its perfectly fine to shark fin around the world. If we were to put a stop to this, we are giving other places a reason to not shark fin at all. Furthermore, scientific studies show that the population of sharks has decreased by 90% and if action is not taken immediately, they may become extinct.

It is said that humans die more from bee stings or soda pop machines than they do from sharks. By my opinion, the sharks should be more afraid of us humans. In conclusion, we should keep the sharks in the ocean and out of our soup.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Thank you for your testimony. But please just remain seated and maybe there's some Senators who might have some questions. But before I recognize Attorney Johnson, I want to state that these students come from George Washington High School's Marine Mania Club and I want to thank you for your advocacy and for everything you've been doing at GW through your teacher, (NAME?). So thank you.

At this time, I would ask U.S. Attorney Karen Johnson to give testimony and kind of focus a little bit on why we need local legislation if there's already a federal mandate. I know the sponsor and I have been criticized heavily publicly that we don't need a local law if there's a federal statute in place. And when we met with the Congresswoman the other day she

said she was very proud to have sponsored the federal legislation that bans shark finning. And so I want to thank you for your time this evening and I hope you can enlighten us.

Karan Johnson: Thank you and good afternoon. I am a federal prosecutor but I speak only in my personal capacity but based on my experience in prosecuting the federal law. When the feds passed anti-shark finning laws several years ago, I brought the first criminal prosecution of shark finning in the country. It was also, as far as I can tell, one of the last, certainly the last on Guam, it must have been fifteen years ago when we had U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents stationed here, we had NOAA, it was a constant presence and now the federal agencies have withdrawn to a great extent.

I haven't had a U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent here for over five years. Our NOAA agent is supposed to cover the entire Pacific region as far as Guam. We have nobody checking the Port and that's how you distinguish the shark finners. You get people coming in and they've got a whole bunch of shark fins and they don't have the bodies to correspond with it.

The only way you can stop this is to have somebody on the ground at the Port and the feds simply are not doing that for a variety of reasons, typically I think, resources and budget. That's why I so strongly support this bill for Guam. You need a Guam law that will enable you to put your conservation officers on the ground at the Port, enforcing this law and then I think you will see some results.

From a personal viewpoint, it dismays me. I come from a family that hunts and fishes for generations. The idea that you would kill an animal and not use all of it, not eat all of its meat, for example, is an anathema. It's just shocking to me. The idea that you would cut off a part of the animal and throw the rest of it back in to the ocean is just unspeakably cruel and also, I think, wasteful.

A shark fin soup is a frivolity. Nobody is going to starve if we don't have shark fin soup and I think this bill is right on point, it addresses what needs to be done. I had one question, though. When you talk about fines, it is not clear to me if the Department of Agriculture assesses a fine, whether that fine would be payable directly to the Department of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources and I think you might want to make that clearer.

Sometimes I'll be prosecuting, for example, turtle poachers, which is a violation of the federal act, Lacey Act, but as part of the plea agreement I'll require that the defendant agree to pay a fine to the Aquatics and Wildlife Division and I think its important to give them as much support for personnel and equipment as you can and I would make sure that any fine goes straight to that division.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you for your testimony. I just have a quick question before I invite other Senators to ask questions. Do you see, in any way, this Bill 44-31 conflicting with the current federal statute?

Karen Johnson: No, not at all. It supplements it, in fact, I think its better. It prohibits the possession of shark fins and that means that every restaurant that is now serving shark fin soup has got to stop. I think that that is a good thing because when you eliminate the demand then you eliminate the problem and that's what this bill will do, it will eliminate the demand.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: And this bill is very clear, right ma'am, that we're exempting for personal consumption or sustenance type fishing.

Karen Johnson: Well, yeah, I think that's true and I frankly don't know anyone who catches sharks for consumption. My understanding of the trade is that it's all the restaurants and people who consider this to be a delicacy.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: See, we modeled this legislation after Saipan, the CNMI, because they were concerned about sustenance types of fishing and they wanted, because some of the locals there do eat shark meat and so we wanted to model this piece of legislation after that so there's some consistency.

Karen Johnson: I think the key is eating shark meat, then it goes back to the basic concept of hunting or fishing an animal in the wild, that you use all of it. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Senators, do you have any questions for the panel? Okay, we'll go down, we'll start – Mr. Speaker?

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Ms. Johnson you said the local law is needed basically because the federal law doesn't have any federal officials to enforce it.

Karen Johnson: We don't have any feet on the ground. We don't have anyone down at the Port and that's what you need.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Can you deputize our local conservation officers to enforce that federal regulation?

Karen Johnson: I don't know. I don't know. I haven't heard of it being done, but I suppose in certain circumstances, it could be but why not pass your own law that you have complete control over?

Senator Ben Pangelinan: I understand that, but I guess the question was can you look in to that? Is that a possibility?

Karen Johnson: I can look in to it. I'll call my NOAA agent. He should be able to tell me.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Sure. Alright.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Alright, thank you. Senator Rodriguez?

Senator Dennis Rodriguez: Thank you. I just have a question. Can you, at least for me to understand, what is the federal law?

Karen Johnson: I'm sorry?

Senator Dennis Rodriguez: What is the federal law on shark finning?

Karen Johnson: The federal law is in Title 16. I didn't bring the statute with me. It prohibits shark finning itself and it provides for ways for when you're assessing the catch from a boat, there has to be a body to correspond with every shark fin. In the case that I prosecuted, they had some sharks onboard but they had about ten times as many fins as they did sharks to match them. And that's part of the criteria you use in determining whether or not a person's been shark finning.

I'd have to pull the federal statute, but I think the Guam statute is very clear and very enforceable. More down to earth, frankly.

Senator Dennis Rodriguez: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Going down the line now, Senator Duenas?

Senator Chris Duenas: Miss Johnson, in your reading of the local law would you see any problems if a fisherman who had by catch of shark, with the entire animal intact, if they were to take that, would they be in violation?

KAREN JOHNSON: Well, you have a provision here defining *take* "is a hunt, pursue, or capture or to assist a person in doing so but the accidental catching of a shark or ray by line

does not amount to a taking, if the shark or ray is immediately returned to the water.” That language seems to prohibit any personal taking of a shark and you could read that language as doing that. I support it because I don’t think we should be taking sharks at all but this appears to prohibit any catching of a shark at all, unless you immediately return it to the water. For those who think that people should be able to individually hunt sharks, then this section is a problem.

Senator Chris Duenas: Okay, thank you for your interpretation.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you, Senator. Are you okay? (To Senators A. Ada and T. Ada) Madame Speaker?

Speaker Judi Won Pat: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Lady, the question I want to ask is, it says here on page 3, that it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, take, purchase, barter and all that, and since we don’t have the individuals out there monitoring this, is there anyway in which the local government then can fine the individuals who are not basically, are the ones rather who are doing this and they don’t stay on island, they just come and...

KAREN JOHNSON: Well, the way I understand the problem is the commercial. What’s killing the sharks worldwide is the commercial industry and the problem is not the local fishermen who hooks a shark and decides to keep it and eat all of it. The problem is happening down at the harbor with have these fishing boats that come in. I don’t think anyone is inspecting their loads right now and I think they need to start. This bill will put feet on the ground to start inspecting the boats that are coming in and that’s important.

SPEAKER JUDI WON PAT: Will we have any authority to go out and arrest these individuals? Like you said, who are not from the local community and many of them are foreign vessels.

KAREN JOHNSON: Of course, of course. If you have a boat come in to your harbor, that boat is in the venue, in the jurisdiction of Guam. It would be like any other crime. If they decide to dump oil in the harbor, you’ve got a oil pollution act. If they decided to run riot in the town, you have riot acts. The fact that they are at the Port gives Guam the jurisdiction to enforce whatever laws you have on the books. The same reason your Customs officials now can certainly search these boats; the same jurisdiction would apply here.

SPEAKER JUDI WON PAT: In other types of fishing or hunting that’s prohibited and is not during seasonal time, our wildlife conservation officers can actually not just fine them, but actually will be able to confiscate anything that has to do or is related to the illegal

hunting. In this case, they're primarily fines, you know, criminal penalties, dollar amounts but nothing in terms of these individuals boats that come to the island. Can those also be confiscated?

KAREN JOHNSON: Well, I noticed that. You do not have a forfeiture provision in this bill and it would be easy enough to add. Same way that now people who are now poaching, the can forfeit their guns, they can forfeit their trucks; this bill does not have a forfeiture provision. If you wanted to strengthen it, a forfeiture provision would be a good thing to put in. And the Attorney General's office now does the official forfeitures with things like poaching, illegal hunting. It would be easy to add to this bill.

SPEAKER JUDI WON PAT: Thank you, Miss Johnson

KAREN JOHNSON: I personally recommend it. Nothing hurts people more than having their gun or their truck taken away or their boat, in this case.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Thank you very much. I'll call the next group of people who have signed up. Hailey Singler, in the case that she supports the bill.... What's this? (indecipherable) Okay. We have signatures signed by students and some people supporting the bill. Two thousand eleven hundred – Two thousand one hundred eleven signatures. We also have 74 written testimonies which will be entered in to the record and this would be a good time to say, our office has received over 12,000 letters of support for Bill 44-31 from the international community. And there's an online petition and so my iPhone crashed and Stephanie's Blackberry crashed and another office member's smartphone crashed. That's just what we're having to deal with. Crashing in the sense that the batteries wear out a lot quicker than normal because the phones were constantly downloading these emails. So we're still getting those email as as we speak.

So Hailey, did you want to testify? Sir, I... are you? (indecipherable, a man saying he was next on the list) Yeah, I'm going in the order that they appeared. (indecipherable, same man) Okay. You may have been the first on that sheet, but I'm just going in the order that people showed up to the legislature. We'll get to you. Mitchell Singler? What is your name, sir? Your name? Okay, why don't you just come forward and we'll have you testify. Yeah, please.

Reagon? You just indicated support for the bill? Cole? I can't read these names. What do you think this is? I can't make out this name? Oh, Karen, maybe. From UOG Marine Lab. It looks like.. maybe Maureen. Samuel? Sam? Samuel Neetzer? UOG Marine Lab. And Wendy Herring. Okay, Wendy, just... okay. Lexli Sang. Lexli signed up in support of the bill. Marvic Kapiti also signed up. Tashi Taitano? Are you going to testify? Because you didn't

indicate that you were going to testify, but come forward and that would be enough for this round of...

Okay, sir, go ahead. You may go first and then just restate your name in to the mic for the record.

John Naputi-Aguon: Good evening. Buenas noches. I'm John Raymond Naputi Aguon.

(From 30:49 to 31:26, testimony is in Chamorro)

How many of you students understand Chamorro or understood what I said? That's what we need. These senators to come out in support of Chamorro language because I can pick ten of them and maybe one of them is able to understand and maybe none of them is able to talk about it.

(31:56 to 33:11, testimony is in Chamorro)

Every commercial fishing from my line, to the Attorney General, the U.S. Attorney General. once its confiscated they pay their fine to get their ship. If they don't, sold the ship and they made it to the Department of Education so they can be better educated in our culture and our island.

(33:36 to 36:33, testimony is in Chamorro)

Right here in the law, you asked if there was a forfeiture action. Here it say they will confiscate anything that will take care or is involved to hunt this shark.

I love the shark. I will protect the shark. I am not a destroyer or a shark killer. But ladies and gentlemen, let's get more educated because some of these people in here haven't even tasted shark. And how can you tell me that killing shark is bad when it's making me and my family alive today. Not for selling it, but for eating it. I come in here and Wendy's and McDonald's are just too darn expensive. Power rates are going up. We don't need this, we already have an existing law, the law of the land.

There's never been a Chamorro who got arrested because he's got a truck load of shark fins. We need to go and attack those commercialized fishermen but we cannot do that because there's an international regulation. You capture a Japanese boat out there with shark fins and the Japanese government, Ambassador and everybody else is talking to the American Ambassador. They need to be punished because they're destroying it.

I consume the whole part of the shark other than the waste product. I use it as sashimi, with yellow ginger. I am not a destroyer.

Dångkolo si Yu'us ma'åse. Hasso (38:26 to 38:40)

Let me just make this last statement. Researchers come and go, and they left and they leave our island and we stay and suffer with what policies, regulations that are established. That is not my book. My book is passed down by my ancestral, to take what is necessarily, be a good conservation person, be a good preservation person because I have kids and I'll appreciate my future grandkids, great-grandkids are able to see it. Because they have done it for me and I have seen it today.

Shark finning fines should go to the Government of Guam and donated to the Department of Education for educational purposes.

Dångkolo si Yu'us ma'åse. Biba Chamorro, Biba Chamorro, Biba Chamorro.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Mr. Aguon, if you're pressed for time, I just want to say we appreciate your comments on the bill but if you're not a commercial fisherman engaging in the selling of shark, particularly of shark fins, then you won't be bothered by this bill should we put this in to local statute. So every concern that you've addressed with respect to catching sharks because you, for sustenance type fishing, this bill recognizes local fishermen such as yourself. So your concern that this bill is going to make it more difficult for you to fish in our waters, I'm just trying to understand where you're coming from or where you get that from in Bill 44.

John Naputi-Aguon: Senator, there is nothing in this bill that identified commercial fishing only. It identifies anybody who catch, possess, have in their possession, even if I didn't catch it but my friend threw it in the truck, can be arrested, fined, or put to jail. That's what this bill has, this bill needs to be amended, make it a bill for commercial fishermen. Make it a bill so that when Japanese ship is arrested out there with the shark fins, they're the ones that pay the fine.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: If the bill is amended so that's more clear, is this something you can support?

John Naputi-Aguon: I will greatly support that. The Saipan bill supports that, it identifies a commercial billing, commercial fishing which is consumption. It's part of our culture, it's been in our culture and identified that there are two distinguished type of shark hunting,

shark fishing. Because we don't... You can ask any local fisherman. The worst fish they'd would like to encounter out there is shark because it's a destruction to our fishing abilities. When you go bottom fishing, the shark will attack that fish because the fish is struggling, so you know how the shark sense the vibration and go attacks it. You know those are expenses we have to do, we have to go and pay for gas, pay for maintenance of the boat and everything just to survive here. We're not going out there, I don't have a boat out there and I charter and I can take tours out there and I can catch shark. No. But this bill is not clear and I appreciate if its amended and identify the difference between commercial fishery and subsistive fishery.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Before you leave, let me just ask if any Senators have any questions or comments for you. If not, you may be excused and thank you, sir, for your testimony.

John Naputi-Aguon: Thank you, sir.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Are you Hailey? I guess Hailey didn't come up yet. Mitchell? Yeah.

Mitchell Singler: My name is Mitchell Singler and I just want to highlight a few points in terms of tourism dollars and the impact that may have. I think a good example is already being demonstrated in Palau, as is probably widely known, they've established a marine sanctuary and within that sanctuary area over 120 shark species are contained in that area. Its the world's first shark sanctuary and it covers an area of over 230 thousand miles, according to what I've read about it.

I know most about it from reading scuba diving magazines, dive tours and related publications that attract divers to go to Palau. Palau ranks among either one or two top places in the world to go diving. Divers generally reward conservation efforts by spinning their tourism dollars and going to those places. Yap is another top area, I'm not sure about their conservation efforts there. The Maldives is known as another place and it also has conservation efforts in place and so, scuba divers know one thing and that's the presence of sharks indicates healthy reefs and that's what most people are spending their dollars on to participate in scuba diving activities. Guam, to people outside of Guam that scuba dive, is seen as a stopover to get to Palau, Guam is not generally a destination in itself.

So I think over time, if Guam enacted some sort of legislation it would highlight that there are efforts being made and would attract tourist dollars for scuba diving instead of just people who live here that dive.

That being said, I feel that if Guam doesn't act, it will just continue to provide tourism dollars for places like Palau that are doing it because people are spending their dollars on other places so... there are a lot of elements to this issue but I wanted to just highlight a few things in terms of economic impact. I think a reward would come eventually in terms of tourism if we supported this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you, sir. Please state your name in to the...

Samuel Neetzor: Hello, I am Samuel Neetzor, Originally I thought this list was a support list for signature but anyway now I sit here so I can add my thoughts. I wanted to add the same thoughts as Mitchell just did, regarding to the Maldives. If you look at the Maldives you have somehow an intact shark population and their calculations that every single shark delivers more than three thousand dollars per year, so every single shark brings in more than three thousand dollars per year in tourism dollars.

So if you have the buildup here then there will be more and more people coming to Guam there will be more and more dive tourists and if as he just mentioned, if the Government of Guam shows that it's doing some effort to protect the reefs or the marine environment, people will definitely appreciate it and spend more money for diving here if its worth it. Like if really every diver appreciats it or wants this experience to see a shark alive and not just on TV. So this is really a special moment under the water and you see these elegant creatures, which have been on this planet for more than 400 million years.

So I think this is a good opportunity for Guam if this law will be, how do you say, if this law will be passed. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you for your testimony, as well. We'll just go... you're next. Are you ready? Just state your name in to the microphone so we know who you are.

Lexi Tsang: Hi. My name is Lexi Tsang.

Megan Singler: Megan Singler.

Lexi Tsang: And we go to St. John's and we're in Kids for Coral and we watched the shark video and we saw what they do to sharks and its really bad what they do to sharks. They kill them but they make them suffer in the water.

Megan Singler: Sharks are friends, not food.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Okay, Tashi Taitano.

Tasi Taitano: Its Tasi, like the ocean.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: I can't read the writing. So, its Tasi? Okay.

Tasi Taitano: Its okay. Well, I'm Tasi Taitano and I go to George Washington High School. I'm in favor of this bill because I'm in favor of life. The legalization of the importation of shark fins is basically telling the world that we use shark fins so you need to kind of go out there and kill them for us. The finning industry is such a money hungry business that even if it's illegal they'll find ways to negotiate with the government.

In Asia, its used as a status symbol. Only those of a higher class can afford to indulge the decadence of the shark fin. But what's more important? People who are looking for an ego boost or our entire ecosystem? Losing sharks will affect the entire food chain, from the top to the bottom.

It's only human to find a means of survival, these days we do need money to do so. Finning, is an easy yet profitable way to obtain a large amount of cash for minimal work. They are always, we are always searching for a get rich quick scheme and people think they've found the jackpot when they see shark finning because its so easy but no one is thinking of the future, no one is thinking about future generation's environments and they're only living in the now.

People need to properly, people need to be properly educated as to what they're getting themselves in to and what consequences they're setting on, not only themselves, but the rest of the world. Sharks have been around for 400 million years, that's even before the dinosaurs were roaming the earth. Those enormous creatures came and gone, yet us little humans are here now and wiping out one of the longest lasting species of animal in history, all for the tasteless ingredient that is to be added to soup.

The truth is sharks are very intelligent animals and they can feel and see things. we don't realize the shark can feel their fins being severed off and the force of a fisherman kicking the immobile bodies off the deck to sink to the bottom of the ocean and die. Of all the cruelty taking place in the world, it would be wrong to act like innocent bystanders when we know something bad is happening right in front of us.

Therefore, I ask you to pass this bill and give the sharks a chance to live as they have been for the last 400 million years. Let Guam be an exception to the myth of everyone else is

doing it because everyone else is not. If we lessen the need for shark fins, there will be no need for the merciless killing of these defenseless creatures.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you very much, Tasi. Senators, any questions? Okay, thank you very much. I would like to call up Jayman Medina from George Washington High School. Angelica Gagan, Evelyn Quiel, Jen Johnson, Manny Duenas and... okay, I won't. We'll just wait for Mr. Duenas so he can round out this panel. He's coming in. Okay, Jayman, you can proceed.

Jayman Medina: Hello, my name is Jayman Medina and I'm from the school of George Washington High School. I believe that we have no reason to be afraid of sharks. Out of all the things in life, sharks are the least of our worries. There is no reason we should kill them except for the exclusive consumption of the whole shark.

The only reason most people are afraid of sharks are that they do not understand. It is the same with everything people have yet to come to terms with, the fear of the unknown. It is only natural that the body is scared. Its just shows that we are being scared of being – we are scared of being vulnerable. You know what and who is to blame for all these fears, the movie and the producers and the writers. They build up all this ludicrous about sharks and blowing them out of proportion.

One unbelievable fact is that vending machines kill more people than sharks do. How silly is that? Here we are killing sharks for fins and out of fear, when we should be scared of losing some change. It seems pretty silly that people can be scared of something that almost never kills people, but insist on shaking the vending machine. The only reason we aren't scared of vending machines is because there is no scary movie about vending machines.

Just look at it this way, if we're so scared of sharks then why do fishermen insist on bringing these killing machines onboard and cutting their fins off. I mean, wouldn't and shouldn't they be scared of sharks killing them? No, because they're not killing machines and intent on eating humans.

All attacks are by mistaken identity and nearly all people make it back to shore alive and with minor injuries. You have a better chance of a coconut falling on your head and killing you instead of a shark. On average ten people, or six actually are killed by sharks every year, yet every three seconds a human kills a shark.

Who should be scared? Who are we actually protecting by killing sharks, is finning helping us or killing us? Who is the killing machine? Are we endangered? Are these fishermen who are finning doing us a favor or adding to our demise?

Lastly, did you know that killing all sharks starts a massive chain reaction? It starts with sharks being gone and fish remaining unchecked. The fish eat all the plankton and organisms that take them in to sunlight and convert them in to oxygen. Then there will be no oxygen in the ocean. Fish will die, coral will die, everything, sooner or later, will die in the ocean. All because we decided not to save the sharks and allow people to import fins and shark parts and ray parts. We allow people to continue this out of fear and for money. I support and want the Bill 44-31 to be passed and enforced for my future and the generations behind me.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you also for your testimony. Angelica?

Angelica Gagan: Good evening. I am Angelica Gagan and I am definitely in support of Bill 44-31, to prohibit the trading and selling of shark fins and ray parts. Though Guam does not have a serious issue with shark finning, our island does allow the import of shark fins and fin byproducts, which basically means we condone to the use of shark fins.

I have learned that sharks are far more important to our ecosystem than thought. The more humans continue to depict sharks as monster-like creatures, the less sharks will cease to exist. I have watched videos and read the statistics so from what I know, sharks are not the enemies. Sharks are vitally important to planet earth. They have been around for 400 million years unchanged, shaping the lives of many underwater creatures, controlling the population of the ocean and keeping our waters balanced. Sharks are basically known to be the architects of our world.

Shark fin industries are a cheap and evil way to make big money. They are a waste of resources and should be a major concern to our economy. Humans are just too selfish to understand that. We lose sharks; we disrupt the oxygen we need, destroying life in the ocean and life on earth as we know it is the exact direction humans are heading towards.

From the shark loving passionate inspiration Rob Stewart, I, along with many others have learned that the animal we fear the most, we cannot live without. Yeah, we cannot live without, sorry.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: You should have seen his eyes.

Angelica Gagam: I shocked him.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Evelyn? Thank you. (indecipherable) Oh. It's a lady shark. Oh, okay. Okay, Evelyn, you're recognized.

Evelyn Quiel: Good evening, my name is Evelyn Quiel and I am the president of Sharks Making A Difference in the Environment, an organization of Simon A. Sanchez High School that advocates a healthy, sustainable environment. Before I provide my testimony, Rob Stewart asked me to read his written testimony, so I will be doing that first.

“Thank you for the opportunity to issue a statement today. Sharks have been on Earth for over 400 million years, predating dinosaurs by about 150 million years and have survived five major extinctions. They are the largest, longest lasting predator we have but their populations have dropped by 90%. As the apex predator, they ensure the health of the oceans ecosystem, keeping fish stocks healthy, maintaining balance on coral reefs, and ultimately safeguarding the futures of the oceans upon which we depend.

Fifty plus percent of the oxygen in the air we breathe comes life in the ocean, below sharks in the food chain, making sharks incredibly important, not just for the oceans but for us as well.

Studies show that the removal of sharks causes the death of coral reefs. Coral reefs are important to areas such as Guam because 60% of fisheries depend on healthy coral reefs.

Millions of species, or 25% of known species, make coral reefs their homes an estimated 73 million sharks are killed worldwide every year to feed the global billion dollar shark fin trade. The sharks in the water surrounding the islands nations of the Pacific have been targeted intensely by the shark fin industry.

This bill will ban the possession and sale of shark fins, which will simplify the enforcement of the federal shark finning ban. This is an important opportunity for Guam to take a stance for future generations, the future of fisheries, and the world’s oceans. I respectfully request this Senate support the Guam Shark Fin Prohibition Act and join Hawaii, CNMI, and Palau as global leaders in shark conservation. Respectfully, Rob Stewart, Director and Producer of *Sharkwater*.”

The Sharks MADE Members, including myself, are very excited to be here today, for we are strong supporters of Bill 44-31. Sharks and rays are important to our ecosystem and sharks especially are a top predator and help maintain balance in the ocean which provides for 50% of the oxygen we breathe.

Hopefully, if the bill gets passed, shark finning will decline. Studies from Wild Aid, a United States based group, shark fins have 42% more mercury than the safety limit for humans. The safety limit is six ounces and shark fins have 252 ounces. The point is that it is

not good for us at all. And on behalf of Sharks MADE, we support Bill 44-31, shark protection, and we are grateful for the introduction of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Jen?

JENNIFER JOHNSTON: "Hello, I'm Jennifer Johnston and I'm in favor of the bill, 44-31.

"Did you know that sharks are one of the oldest living animals on earth, if you didn't, now you do. They have lived through five extinctions and if we continue killing them just for their fins, there will make the sixth. Sharks have lived up to 400 millions of years and within those years they have not changed.

"The whale shark, the great white shark and the basking sharks are being endangered as well as other species of sharks. Sharks kill up to five to nine people in a year, vending machines kill more people than a living animal in the water. I also say that sharks are one of the shyest animals out in sea. This is a quote from the movie Rob Stewart made and it's true, "the one we fear the most is the one we can't live without."

"People think that sharks are fast at producing but they're not they take 25 years to develop and they hold their pups in their uterus for about two years. Our Sharks are endangered because people think that they cure diseases like cancer, but they don't. Sharks get sick also, they're not different than any other animal in the ocean.

"They don't have taste, either, you would have to season your soup. We need sharks because we depend on the ocean for oxygen, which sharks control. And now every three seconds a shark is being killed. Did you know that there are 450 species of sharks and one third of them are listed as threatened, endangered or critically endangered?

"Now fewer sharks are being caught, not because but because we are making the change happen, but because we have lost our sharks through finning. How would you like it if someone cut off your arms and legs and left you to suffer? Well that's what we're doing if we don't stop finning sharks. People out at sea cut their fins off and dump the rest of the body out to sea for them to suffer.

"Save the sharks, change the world, you will only continue what is best for us when you do and importing is really bad for fins, fins is really bad for importing to Guam.

Thank you."

SEN RESPICIO: Thank you. Mr. Manny Duenas?

MANNY DUENAS: "Good evening Senators. I'm the President of Guam Fisheremen's Co-Op Assn. Before I begin I'd like to look at this picture being painted before me here. It seems like the fishermen of Guam is going on in Guam and I'd like to tell you that there is no finning going on in Guam and people saying that carcasses are being thrown back in the water and its implied that it's happening here. Fishermen are not evil and I don't care for the facts that people don't really have the facts about what's going on in Guam because finning doesn't happen here."

SEN. RESPICIO: "Manny, you're entitled to your comments but finning is going on in other areas and this bill is to prevent it from happening here."

DUENAS: Mr. Duenas said he was representing 180 fishermen and their families and all were are against this bill (44-31) as it is written, but not against the banning of shark finning. There are inconsistencies between the bill and the federal law that was introduced by Congresswoman Bordallo. The federal law says sharks must be landed with the fins attached. The bill says I cannot have any fins (which are attached to the body.) In order to properly clean the shark fishermen have to remove the tail, which would create a detached fin. He said that the bill is an exercise in futility, causing an uproar in the community for no reason.

He said that there is no evidence that the shark population in Guam or the Marianas is being depleted and asked people to come forward if they have information to the contrary. He said that the bill was lying to the public, because there are more sharks and more dangerous sharks in Guam and the Marianas now than there were many years ago. He gave several examples of fishermen and others who had been attacked by sharks over the years.

Mr. Duenas said that he could bring in 180 fishermen to testify that there were more sharks here now than before. He said that the bill was discriminatory to fishermen because the provisions for subsistence fishing were not written properly. He pointed out that even sharks in an aquarium-type facility, such as Underwater World, would be in violation if the bill should become law.

Mr. Duenas reminded Senators again that he was representing 180 fishermen, as opposed to the 50-60 students that were present at the public hearing. Mr. Duenas said that the local fishermen harvest less than 10% of the resources around Guam and that Bill 44-31 will place unneeded restrictions only on local fishermen, and again reiterated that there were more sharks in Guam's waters than ever before.

Sen. Chris Duenas agreed that further education on these issues was necessary to get a balanced perspective. He told the students and educators that he hoped that the as much energy would be put into discussing the erosion of the coral reefs due to the buildup, as has been devoted to the practices of fishing. He encouraged students to challenge their teachers to discuss erosion as well as fishing.

Sen. Pangelinan asked how shark fins were used, and was it only for soup. He was told it was used for shark fin soup and in Chinese culture, for medicines. Sen. Pangelinan suggested that banning shark fin soup might achieve the same goal as the bill, because local fishermen don't catch sharks for the purpose of soup or medicine.

Mr. Anthony Flores, who identified himself as a fisherman, said that in the Chinese culture shark fins are reduced to a powder and mixed in with traditional medicines.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: For the record, i'm going to submit 422 signatures in favor of the bill and a whole bunch of written testimonies. Tom Camacho, Mr. Camacho, Val Brown, Dr. Jennifer Mcilwayne from UOG marine lab, Celestino Aguon, Raylen Leon Guerrero. ok tom, we'll start with you. if we could just have your attention.

Tom Camacho: Hafa Adai Mr. Chairman and the members of committee of rules. Hafa for the record my name is Tom Camacho. I am a resident from Sinajana, a present fisher man and president of the Guam organization salt and water organization which is a non-profit organization. Mr. Chairman I am here today as a resident of Guam and I am here to represent the Guam organization of salt and water and their families. Our members are 95% of Chamorro and all recreation of men and women fishermen's. We support the man's of practice of shark fins however we do not support the bill of 44-31 as written. We support the education to people and youth to fishing techniques all traditional and non-traditional. Improve catches and to enjoy fishing to foster sportsmanship, to support fishing and co-management through resources. And to provide the unified and to preserve to protect voice to protect the rights are preserve of the fishing of Guam. It is interesting to know that the legislature that the finding and intent are identical to that Hawaii bill and CNMI public law and if my hunches are correct then I will not bother or ask the decline of shark population as there will be such no data. We are no way suggesting that sharks are no other way such as other marine creatures to human and environment threats because they are. The lack of much scientific research on the shark population in the Marianas is because of the great concerns that there is no evidence. The discoveries of shark are in serious jeopardy. We would however agree with the finding that sharks are one of the top predators. Not only do they prey on other marine life but also on human life as well. By resident observers and officials the Guam fire and police personal fisher men could suggest the opposite observation that sharks are abundant on Guam. Mr. Chairmen let us not confuse the issue

of shark fining and prohibiting the intake of the concern in this situation. We used to be people who engaged and communicated. We bark and moan when Doe does not communicate with us regarding the military buildup. Are we not the same? The indigenous fishing rules and regulation of the shot gun fishing band proposal bill and the scuba bill. I challenge you senators and our government agencies with us not just in a fight but in dialog and communalization to change ideas. Be the leaders you're supposed to be and be the channels of communication. I am a firm believer with debates and issues; this is what all democracy is about. With that Mr. Chairman I propose the changes of bill 44-31 page one section one line eleven. Take the word from strike local, page one section one line eleven. After the work population strike, the words locally and if we don't have the data then let's not mention it especially in your findings and intent. Page 3 at a new bb to read, shark fining is removing the fin from a shark or and a tale and returning the remaining of the shark to the sea. That's the definition. At any position of any such fin without the corresponding caucus to land any such fin the corresponding corpus. Page 4 section 5 replacing as follows: 6311.41 two the lower penalties which basically says if you get caught your guilty of a felony a pawn conviction you be in prison for no more than 5 years or fine for 100,000 dollars. Let's get serious put some teeth we have no problem against that. Section 6 lining of line 5 will be removed Mr. Chairman for the record those who practice the man for shark fining however we do not support bill 44-31.as written. On behalf of the board of directors thank you for providing us the opportunity of testimony on bill 44-31. And we are glad to be working together with the rest of the agencies and legislature and committee.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you um Mr. Camacho we will bring those amendments up to those who do sponsor that bill. Thank you for being here. ok vow.

Val Brown: Hafa Adai Im val brown. I'm just letting you im not supporting or opposing this bill. However I have collect some information support from our lab im a fishing biologist working with the National fishing service. Senators ask me to provide some scientific evidence. One specified example is when you remove on meezly shark you start to. sharks are impact predators such as there removed from an eco system that can have triple down effects that can have shame of different other locate caused weekly collapse and also from the reefs and Caribbean's. And some pacific examples are the emails that you have already received already. when you remove the larger sharks you create a brume that that shark accumulate. as you fish down you food chain you contain to slight down the ecosystem as well. i gave you graphs. Marianna arcupeligo varieties of methods. Survey made by divers 2 commodores o more and provide me with a data.. the first graph is reef bio mass in 2003 black tips white tips and nurse sharks, 90 k per sq kal. walking in

ton 25 micro mall and only seeing 10 people. Per sq kilometer. There are a loan number of white tips. our teeny tiny box's don't even make it to 1 tone.

gavels are more popular of impact predators. Fish bio mass around the arcapeligo, even if you have large predators, part of ecosystem management means to persurb your predators. Areole surveys twice a month. shows observation around the sea. Dropped most sharks in 2005. From 2003 Jenny is going to present to the camera views from around the island.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Please stay cause I'm sure we have some questions for you.

Jennifer McIlwain: Good evening Senators, I am an Assistant Professor in fisheries biology at the UOG Marine lab where I have worked for the past 5 years. I'm here today to present you data that was collected in 2010 as part of a larger study on coral reef fish populations across the southern Mariana islands and funded by the NOAA Coral Reef Initiative Federal Grants Program. This is a joint project between the UOG Marine Lab and the University of Western Australia that provided the technology and infrastructure. "The data were collected by Steven Linfield a PhD student from the same university. So far data have been collected from four locations: Galvez Bank, 15 miles southwest of Guam; Guam, Rota and Saipan, though I will only be presenting data pertinent to the bill which is Guam and Galvez Bank which we consider a control reef. Recognizing the need for scientific data in support of this bill, we examined the relative abundance of sharks from Guam and Galvez Bank, and compared these with similar studies from other locations; that is Australia and Fiji. I'd like you to take a close look at the handout I passed out to you. This addresses the direct comments made by Mr. Dueñas earlier this evening that there are sharks everywhere, and also the issue of lack of scientific evidence that has been raised on occasion. But to be fair, this is very new data, collected only last year and so it's pretty much hot off the press but I am willing to share this information with anyone who wants it. Now, the method we used was deploying Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations, and I'll refer to these as BRUVS, there's a picture of the BRUVS in the bottom right hand corner of the handout. This technique has been widely used to assess fish and shark populations around the world including Australia and now Guam. Two video cameras are mounted on a steel frame and set to film for one hour. In front of the camera is a length of PVC pipe with a small mesh bag that includes some bait. The use of bait is an effective means of attracting sharks and provides robust estimates of their numbers. So far, 75 hours of video footage has been analyzed for Guam. This footage was taken at 75 sites extending from Hagåtña, north around Pati Point to Harmon on the East coast, at depths of between 30 and 100 feet. In total we counted only 10 sharks. Most were black tipped reef sharks and two were gray reef sharks. We observed similar numbers of sharks inside and outside the marine reserves, at Pati Point and Tumon, although this is not surprising giving how mobile the reef sharks are, relative to the size of the preserves. We also analyzed 25 hours of video footage from Galvez Bank from BRUVS deployed at similar depths. There we

counted 22 sharks, 0.8 sharks per hour. This represents nearly 7 times more sharks than around Guam. The species assemblage was also different. In Galvez most were white tipped sharks, followed by grey reef black tips. Now because this video technique has been used in other coral reef locations enabled us to make direct comparisons with the data we collected around Guam and Galvez. For example at Scott Reef in northwestern Australia, which is the “gray” bar, and that is the “fished” gray bar there in the graph, top left hand corner, Indonesian fishermen sail from Rote island to catch sharks for the shark fin trade. Now further south, at Mermaid reef, which is the larger gray bar gray bar labeled “no fishing,” fishing has been banned for more than 20 years. I’d like to point out two important points from this graph. Firstly that the un-fished reefs from Australia, which are about 1.2 sharks per hour (now granted that these data are collect using exactly the same techniques so we can use it as a direct comparison) had nearly three times the number of sharks compared to those reefs exposed to fishing by Indonesian fishermen. The second point is that the number of sharks around Guam are four times less compared to reefs in Australia that have been heavily fished. I think these data speak for themselves. At Lord Howe Island off the east coast of Australia these same BRUVS and video cameras were also used to assess fish/shark abundance. They found sharks in significant numbers, averaging 4.2 sharks per hour, OK, which would be off the scale on that particular graph, which is equivalent to 30 times the number of sharks we have around Guam. This island has not been historically fished for sharks, and presents a case on how sharks can be very abundant along with healthy fish communities that, I might add, have been commercially fished. I will finish by presenting one more example, and that is a study from the Great Barrier Reef. Along a 1,000-kilometer stretch of reef, populations of both gray, gray reef and white tipped sharks, same species that we have here in Guam, were assessed and found to be reduced by 80 to 97 percent respectively, compared to areas closed to fishing. The office concluded that if populations were continued to be fished and left unmanaged, they would decrease to a tiny fraction, between 1 to 5 % of the original population, within 20 years. This paints a very bleak picture even for the Great Barrier Reef, where illegal fishing is relatively minor. I have been able to provide solid data to support my testimony today. I am however continually frustrated by statements made in the local media, suggesting an exhaustive scientific study is always needed to rule out overexploitation of Guam’s fish and shark stocks before any management policy like this bill is put in place. This is the polar opposite of what is known as the proportionary approach to fisheries management. It is not a new concept, it is widely adopted by many U.S. fisheries councils, and is the basic tenet of ecosystem based fisheries management. Essentially the proportionary approach to fisheries, and I quote from an FAO document of 1996, ‘implements conservation measures even in the absence of scientific certainty that stops from being overexploited.’ Throughout the world this proportionary approach is now being applied, including by U.S. Federal and State fisheries agencies, as too many fisheries have collapsed because of the delay in implementing management, because there was no scientific evidence of overfishing. This

does not absolve you, the Guam Legislature or DAWR Agriculture, from the responsibility of managing Guam's coastal waters. But given the more conservative approach taken by most U.S. Federal agencies in the last decade, you don't have to wait until "all the data are in," before you act to protect Guam's precious marine resources. To conclude, the extirpation of sharks from tropical waters by fishing is not innate to Guam, and is an increasingly common event that has been occurring over enormous areas of the tropical Pacific and western Atlantic. On that note, I urge you to consider the data I have presented today in support of this bill. However, I would like to see additional wording in the bill that requires DAWR to set up a monitoring program of shark abundance around Guam. If this bill passes it is crucial that we take an adaptive approach and monitor shark numbers on a regular basis over the next ten years to determine if such a ban has been effective in restoring Guam's shark population. If numbers do not rebound within ten years, then the bill needs to be revisited to see what further action should be taken."

Senator Ben Pangelinan: the number of sharks seem to be quite low i'm just trying to relate we have the fishermen at least the members of the Guam Fishermen's Co-op that says this is not a practice that they engage in. shark finning. who's catching the sharks? do we have Guam-based fishing companies? everybody tells us that they're gone that they've left guam they relocated so shows catching the sharks out there? and are they coming into Guam and off-loading them here and re-shipping them elsewhere? are they trading the shark fins on the high seas. i mean, where-- where's the practice occurring?

Val Brown: That is a really difficult question to answer. There is some data from the DAWR Creel Surveys that there is recrea-- there is local catch of sharks within the local fishery. It's not clear whether that is commercial or subsistence. My guess is more towards the subsistence side. Looking at that it's coming mostly from in-shore-- partially from in-shore as well as the off-shore fisheries, but I don't have any data to tell you for sure to tell you where that's coming from.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Who would have any data on that?

Jennifer McIlwain: I'm sorry, Senator, can I add something?--

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Sure.

Jennifer McIlwain: It'll-- one of the studies that I quoted from the Great Barrier Reef also demonstrated that in-fact it doesn't take very much exploitation to reduce those numbers dramatically and that has to do with the life history of sharks. They bear young, they don't bear very many young, unlike unlike fish that produce millions of eggs- sharks only

produce X-- a small number of live, they're gestation period is actually quite long and so-- and particularly here on Guam so if you start-- or if you drive the adult population down to a point it's gonna take a long time to recover. and the point is is that it doesn't actually take a lot of exploitation it just may be that there's enough fishing here to have reduced the sharks to that sort of level and i think that that's evident when you compare the data with Guam. We're actually going to be looking quite closely at the data from the other islands in the next month or so.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Yeah, 'cos when I look at the Australia no fishing versus Galvez that's fishing the-- you know, it doesn't look that out of sync.

Jennifer McIlwain: Well there isn't a huge amount of fishing that goes on at Galvez there is some protection that goes on because of the distance from off-shore-- so far, off-shore. relative to Guam, this is also relative to Guam, okay?

Senator Ben Pangelinan: I mean, but-- Galvez Banks is one of the most fished areas I think here. I mean, when you--that's where you'll--

Val Brown: It's heavily fished for bottom fishing--

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Yeah, right.

Val Brown: and boat based fisheries and there's a lot of in-shore fishing that's done without a boat all around Guam and that's where some of the catch is coming from but we'd have to go back and look at DAWRs Creel Survey data. there's also a commercial-- there are some commercial receipts programs that's run out of the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center that's part of the WESTPAC Information Fisheries Network that might be able to assist with that.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: I'm just trying to-- and I understand, you know, I've been reading some testimony and reading the shark's and their reproduction stage and so forth so you know if we have ten sharks and that's supposed to be a normal population base and you get you catch two a year you're gone. I mean- ten years- I mean five years they're gone. If only one or two reproduce in five years you can deplete your population and so I understand that and the relationship between depleting the population and so forth, but my curiosity just is that- it's like, who's catching these sharks out there? I would think that they wouldn't be catching them here where they can get observed and they can get prosecuted that they'd be catching them in the Northern Islands and so forth where there's nobody out there yet the population's greater out there than it is here. Is there any kind of relationship why?

Jennifer McIlwain: Well I think it also has to do with the population- the size of the human population and that was the graph that Val put up here which shows that- and this is a paper that i was a co-author on along with people from NOAA and other scientists from the US that shows that there's a direct relationship with- between the size of your human population and the size of your- or general health of your fish stocks. So if you've got 160,000 people on Guam, or however many, I mean- yes. You are going to have impacted fish stocks relative to a place in the Northern Marianas that has you know just a handful.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: So, yeah- I'm just kinda thinking where do these- given the number that we cited and so forth, I would think nobody would be fishing for shark finning around Guam 'cos they're not here. Right?

Jennifer McIlwain: Well that's my point about putting in place a monitoring program as well and this is where the precautionary approach and adaptive fisheries management really go hand-in-hand ok the precautionary approach is where we don't really know what's going on we got some sort of scientific evidence which suggests that our populations are very low the adaptive approach is to say okay well let's monitor these populations through time and adapt our policy accordingly and if the bill we don't see any rebounding going on there must be some other factors at play here and to look at those more closely.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: I certainly agree and think that one of the issues of course is do we do that? Do we go back and reexamine and reverify you know under the adaptive management because that was the intent of the fishing preserves there's supposed to be reexamination reevaluation after five years to do some adaptive management and none of that's occurred ten years later so I think that's the fear maybe that some of these practitioners have is we put in this adaptive management meant to be evaluated and then it doesn't happen and we just keep going and they just keep getting further and further shoved off to the side and pretty soon we're going to be fishing in the Dededo pool *laughs* cos that's the only place they'll be allowed.

Again, you know, I just think that we do have an obligation that if we put in the policy we follow through with the policy and i think that that's the fear is that once you begin a path and you don't reexamine it then you just keep going down there and the people who are depending on our responsibility to reexamine it and take a look at adaptive management don't do our jobs they're the only ones suffering from it nobody else. So- but- I- again, it's just, I'm just trying to figure out where these shark finning fishermen are as it relates to our community here and our resources and what we control out there you know in terms of the activity and what is- how does this- again I go back- hey- you know if they can't sell 'em here they're not gonna be fishing for our consumption here we don't- we tell the world

we're just not gonna allow that market and the consumption of that here it's just as good as banning it maybe even better.

Jennifer McIlwain: I still that there's a degree of poaching or illegal fishing that is going on and that's very difficult to quantify and that's not unique to Guam and- I mean there's poaching and illegal fishing going on everywhere but if for example we did put this bill in place and we're able to enforce it more importantly cos that's the biggest issue- the biggest issue is enforcing these bills- and then seeing what happens so whether that- whether ten years down the track there is- they're tweaking of these bills you know I can't make a comment about that but all I can do is offer my professional opinion about what I think is happening and what should possibly happen in the future.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Yeah, but again the only way is we can prevent it from happening right be- because the only way we're gonna catch these people is when they bring their boats into shore because we don't have the resources to go out there and monitor them if we have these fishing activities that are catching these sharks that are based out of Guam and leave out of Guam that you know if we don't have observes on the boat then we're not gonna be able to tell and that the only time we'll be able to make any impact on them illegally doing it is when they bring it in shore and we catch them here and is- you know- i just don't know that we have the number of ships that go out of here practicing that kind- or even with the resources to catch those sharks I guess I'll just have- because of the decrease in the commercial fishing activity of these trollers and PERSAINERS?? that used to come out of here and are not here anymore, so-

Tino? do you- anything at DAWR in regards to these commercial "commercial" fishermen versus our "local" commercial fishermen?

Aguon: Well I think again the bill addresses more the commercial aspect than the non-commercial and I know it was previously mentioned that there is cooperation between the NOAA agent that is on island. I know there has been some discussion related to placement of federal US Fish and Wildlife folks as well on Guam. I think the challenge is always there and again addressing the enforcement aspect- what we were looking- what we hope to- that we also be part of this law would be also- or bill, when it becomes law- a forfeiture clause that also goes in there and I think that would also assist with enforcement aspects. I think it's always a challenge it doesn't guarantee we're gonna keep- we're gonna catch everything that goes on but I think the fact that we have enforcement on the ground so to speak we can be able to look at whether or not you know there is an impact on i think that's gonna be real important and I know the marine preserves are always being brought up you know there are pros and cons the benefits I think of preserving these eco-systems and I think Guam being part of- potentially being part of this- the forefront in this shark finning prohibition as

well I think is gonna hold well for the people of Guam, Chamorros and everyone as well. As far as whether or not there are other entities harvesting sharks- you know- I- at least at this point I couldn't provide you with anything in that regard. And I guess it requires additional follow-up and monitoring and as well as sort of following what Dr. McIlwain was saying that we need to do that.

Senator Ben Pangelinan: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. Senator Duenas.

Senator Chris Duenas: How do we reconcile the fact that the fishermen constantly particularly off-shore like you mentioned Galvez Reef that's the most heavily fished reef on the island and the incidents of reports from the fishermen is constant consumption of their catch by sharks in fact it's gotten to the point where some fishermen are reporting that the sharks are so smart they go and get under their boats and before you would lose the fish and the fish was actually running towards the boat because it was running away from the shark but now a lot of the really experienced fishermen that fish out there the sharks actually know how to hang out below the boat when it stops now and they'll eat the fish right behind the boat so- how do we reconcile that?

Val Brown: That's difficult. Sharks are very very intelligent creatures and it has been documented a number of times that they do recognize the sound of boats of slings going off of a number of things and key into that and so I don't know that they're- it's finding a balance- you need the sharks in order to have healthy fisheries in order to fish maybe part of the issue is that populations are lower than what they need to be because of harvest it's not something that we have completely clear data on and it's- I don't know that there's a way to say- to stop the sharks from doing that they've become accustomed to it over time, but- yeah.

Jennifer McIlwain: But also, be mindful that fishing itself actually attracts sharks now if you're a scuba diver and the same is said for spear fishermen as well when they're down shooting fish- flapping fish- that attracts sharks so the act of fishing would unnaturally aggregate sharks in an area. Now if you're just a scuba divers I'm sure there are many people in this room who dive regularly I've done counts on- I've done counts around Guam over 16 kilometers of area- I've swam around this island for 16 kilometers counting parrot fish and at the same time counting sharks and I've actually saw very few so it's that act of fishing that actually artificially aggregates sharks and maybe sort of I guess- and that's why our data- this particular data I presented today is good because it's relative okay we use an attractant we use the bait but we've used the same technique across a number of locations and excluding habitat of depth as a factor- we've taken those factors out okay so we're just

dealing with the- I don't know- does that answer your question or is there-

Senator Chris Duenas: Somewhat. The thing is that these are the same fishermen that have been fishing for 30-plus years on the island and they've seen the increase in the loss of their particularly in bottom fishing whereas they would have a number of drops before and they would be able to bring up fish cleanly through bottom fishing and most recent and several in about the last five years it's like almost every drop they're losing the gear or they're losing quite a bit of fish on their strings and you know they're- so- it- to them I mean I can sympathize cos I know these guys and what I'm gonna lead to too, Tino, is I think we're talking about data collection here and I think Mr. Camacho alluded to something really interesting earlier too was the communication and I mean you have people who are fishing every day and they're coming in they report they're catch if they're gonna sell it and so that's a great opportunity to get the data from the fishermen in terms of how many shark encounters they're experiencing and so that you can have a balanced approach and the location you know cos these guys are good weather they're bottom fishing Rota Banks 45-degree banks Southern banks and so you have a number of areas island-wide that you could get information and data from fishermen who are out there actively fishing.

Aguon: Senator, if I could just respond in part. My actual professional background is terrestrial biology so to borrow a phrase I'm actually 'a fish out of water'. So I can appreciate the communication aspect I think it's always been a challenge getting information I know fishermen- and I could understand they're almost hesitant if not apprehension in providing information and I think that's a challenge because you know the information we receive is information used to help with management and some- at times I feel- what I hear is the information at least on the surface is used against them is kind of the quote-unquote phrase that I hear so I can appreciate your comment with regards to trying to increase that communication. One thing to follow up with that is that we had the REAC?? meeting a week or so ago and I made- our director had made an effort to be there and I think that's all part of the communication process i think.

Senator Chris Duenas: These fishermen are readily reporting their catches for commercial purposes. I have no problem- I think they would have no problem reporting their incidents of shark occurrence and loss of their gear, bait and I think Manny could confirm that I mean I don't know I'm sure a person wouldn't come up and say I just- 'I'm a poacher and here's my information' but I'm just saying that these people who are fishing to try to make whatever living that they can that if they sell for purposes of recovering fuel or other things and they take care of their family with the rest of the fish I'm sure they would share their data they share their data with us in terms of what they're catching cos they have to that's how they get paid but the fact of the matter is that you know I'm sure they would share that information.

Jennifer McIlwain: Well I welcome any fisherman to come and see me at the Marine Lab my doors are always open all my information contact details are on the- and I have a lab full of students who are happy to crunch numbers so again I welcome access to any data and I thoroughly agree with you that there needs to be greater lines of communication. I just want to make one point and that is I'm not here to bash fishermen I don't believe fishermen are evil in fact I find that insulting my father was a professional fisherman and I actually agree with you that there are big issues at stake here on Guam that include things like- that are affecting our coral reefs that include erosion but we have to consider that these are synergistic effects and think that's the key word here that include sedimentation that ultimately results in habitat loss but you cannot deny that there is exploitation at any level is also having an effect.

Senator Chris Duenas: Certainly. I appreciate that.

Jennifer McIlwain: And that has always been my main point is that we have to deal with these issues- we can't deal with them in isolation we have to deal with them synergistically and I think- I would like- the senators when this- and it will come up- in the next 12 months- I know there are further bills that will be tabled just to keep that in mind.

Senator Chris Duenas: I think that's the balance we're all looking for. You know really in this situation you're gonna have passion on both sides. The fact of the matter is I appreciate you bringing that about and that's the balance we're all looking for because nobody wants to demonize anybody and you heard it from the fishermen themselves they- most of these people don't fish shark but if it's incidental or something like that then they wanna be able to be protected and not have something that prosecutes them and further strangleholds the very limited access that they already have.

Jennifer McIlwain: Well then going back to your point about the fishermen seeing an increase in the number of loss of fish- I think that's a really interesting line of inquiry that we would certainly at the Marine Lab be interested in following up so if there are fishermen out there who are willing to give us or at least report that sort of data to us we can certainly look into it in more detail in the hopes of getting to the bottom of what's going on.

Senator Chris Duenas: Thank you very much.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: I too wanna say that there has to be some better coordination because just as Manny said that there's no evidence to support the bill that the Vice Speaker put together despite that you were still willing to come forward and state to the contrary and I wanna make it very clear that we don't in any way point fingers toward

the fishermen my dad himself is a fisherman and he's not been very happy that the Marine Preserves an area that he- or that we grew up- where he took us while I was growing up to fish in those areas- those areas are no longer accessible to local fishermen but with respect to this bill if the Vice Speaker were here he would tell you that there are several reasons why he introduced the bill- number one, everybody's envious of what Palau's been able to do in terms of creating a sanctuary and in terms of their conservation efforts to protect their environment and then we had a meeting with Senator Hee from Hawaii and Hawaii has followed suit and then we learned that the CNMI has done the same thing so I think there's a general thinking that if Guam doesn't follow suit and if we don't encourage the other islands to do the same thing even though it may not be a problem in that area it might encourage that kind of activity in that kind of area and I know you're saying that the shark population is decreased and Manny is saying that our waters are abundant with sharks that in and of itself is enough to get these shark finners to come and fish in our waters on the comments that Manny's saying that 'we have a lot of sharks, come here' you can't fish in the waters off Hawaii, you certainly couldn't do it in Palau you can't do it in the CNMI, they heard the president of the Fishermen's Co-op say that so they might come in our area. I think that's what we want to dispel and that's what we wanna avoid but my question is- have you been invited to the meeting on February 3rd at the Fishermen's Co-op? I think you guys have to come with me *laughs*

Tonight the senators have been invited. I think it's a big opportunity for you to attend that meeting and I know Tom will be there, Tino you should be there, I think Vangie will be there-- it's a very important meeting for the government leaders to get together with the fishermen and we share these concerns.

So, because you presented evidence, what is the feeling on the comment- you kind of said it- but the feeling on the comment that this legislation is not evidence-based?

Jennifer McIlwain: Like I said to be fair with what was said earlier this data is very new it has literally just come off- you know Steve and I have been working on this data for the last couple months knowing that this bill was coming into play so we- while we didn't keep it under wraps per se we wanted to make sure we spent the time analyzing the data and analyzing it well and that's why you're only seeing it- and some of the people in this room and some of the agencies- resource agency people are only seeing it for the first time so- I don't apologize for that, like I said I wanted to spend the time making sure that the data was good and I'm happy with that now and that's why I'm presenting it to you tonight. So quite the contrary I think there is now evidence to suggest that in my professional opinion that the number of sharks around Guam are in fact quite low particularly relative to other areas and I'm hoping to get my hands on some data from Palau and I think maybe Mr Duenas may be confusing seen shark footage we did after the cruise in 2010- the NOAA

cruise- we did- Steve did post video footage up on the web but we did that for a reason mostly just to- there was one particular piece of quite impressive footage of a tiger shark but that was the only tiger shark we saw I mean Steve's probably analyzed now several hundred hours of video footage and it was the only tiger shark he saw so we sort of did that for the impact factor more than anything but there was no text associated with that suggested that there were sharks everywhere so I think that was sort of the misinterpretation of what our video actually intended. So I guess I did want to mention that I did want to hang on to this and I did want to make sure it was good data before I presented it tonight.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Well I'm gonna suggest if I can that you be able to present your data at that meeting and that's when you can have that dialogue with the fishermen at that time. I know it'll be civil and meaningful and productive.

Jennifer McIlwain: Yeah I would actually like to say for the record that it must be civil--

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Absolutely..

Jennifer McIlwain: and I will not participate in anything other than a civil meeting and I will walk away. I am- consider myself probably one of the regions- we do some of the preeminent fisheries research work in this region and I am continually disappointed that people don't come to me including senators yourself I'm- you know your chiefs of staff don't ring up the Marine Lab we rarely hear from you and I encourage you in the future that you do that.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Well it's because we try to stay away from this issue *laughs* --as you can see. But about 9 years ago when one of the first meetings I had to- or the committee public hearing I had to preside over was the marine preserves and that was the very first time in a while that you had the fishermen as well as the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Planning folks in one room. It resulted in the fishermen communicating to the government that they support the marine protected areas. They're not against the marine preserves but there are certain things that can be done to recognize seasonal fishing and certain types of fishing methods and so as a result that over the years the Department of Agriculture has actually opened up the preserves to allow for those kinds of accommodations- seasonal fishing, permitting and the like. Even things that didn't make sense like someone from Agriculture had to drive over the Merizo pier to see if the manahak are running, then they can open up the preserves. Now they've allowed the mayor or someone to call and so they've also loosened up those kinds of prohibitions and so if we continue on this course we won't see the fishermen as predators and the fishermen won't see the senators as predators and so I think we can figure this out. I wanna thank

Tom for your amendments. I think the amendments might be workable. We'll work with the sponsor. We don't wanna weaken the bill but we also wanna make sure that it doesn't in any way portray the local fishermen like they're doing these kinds of activities. So I think the communication that we've learned tonight will be able to move us forward. I don't think there's any strong disagreement with the bill. I think we just have to be factual and we have to be accurate and make sure that we make it clear that these are the things that are happening there and what's wrong with being proactive? I don't know if any senators have any questions, if there's no more questions for this panel I'll dismiss you and I'll quickly call the next panel up, but thank you very much for enduring.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Is H.A. Borja here? How about Johnny Atuli Taitano?

Jake Limtiaco: Everybody from GW left.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Ok. Is Johnny still here? Ed Chargualaf. Uncle Ed, are you going to testify? Good. No, no, no maybe you can spear me (Laugh). Is there anyone else? Vangie, please come forward. Yes, please come forward. Anyone else? So this will be the last panel. Maybe I should have saved what I just said---cause, after you guys—I don't want to end in a high. So, we'll end positively? Ok. Sir.

Jake Limtiaco: My name is Jake Limtiaco. I go to GW and I'm in support of Bill 44-31. I would like to say sharks are essential to our everyday lives. The reason why we kill them are for their economic value. We have those who just kill them, just for a game. And, I find that really stupid—because, if we love life so much then why are we hurting our life like that—especially here on Guam—when we are trying to protect our culture. We are doing these things ---not to promote bad habits, but, it's everywhere now. Not just here on Guam but these fishermen are saying—"you can see sharks here on Guam..."---and, like you senators are saying—"where is the shark fining happening on Guam?" Its happening on Guam somewhere-- you just don't know about it. How would you know if these fishermen are—what they're saying is true? No offense to all you fishermen, I respect all you fishermen. But—you guys are opposing this for a reason, because you guys want to keep fishing, and, that's alright. You guys can fish all you want. But, please respect that all we're doing is trying to save sharks for the better. All our lives we were taught that sharks were the dumb ones. But, how can they be the dumb ones when they have more senses than humans do. As we grew up we were taught that we should be afraid of these sharks, when it's them who are afraid of us. And, around the world people are saving all these different type of animals, like, elephants, pandas, bears all of these animals...—Excuse me are you paying attention? Ok, thank you, just respect that, ok. Animals are dangerous, and all of these animals are close to being endangered. So, why can't we save sharks, especially here on Guam? Our Tourism here---we rely on our tourism. People want to

come and see our reefs, and there are sharks here. And, when they see these sharks, they'll say wow "Guam is a really good place to be". And, that's really good publicity, and I know that's what you senators want, is good publicity for Guam. Look at Saipan. Saipan was just the second place to pass the Bill, and Hawaii was the first one and we want to be a part of that. I want to be a part of that. I want them to say "Guam was the third place to pass the Bill, and they should be proud of that". We'll be proud of it and lots of people will be proud of it. It will get around the world that we have promoted it in a good way. Just to get back to my testimony from earlier---an estimated note---that sharks are killed every 3 seconds. I don't know if you senators feel that, that's a good thing? But, that's not a good thing. Sharks have survived through 5 major extinctions. How can we kill what has been living so long and survived this long. I've been with sharks before, and all the stories I've heard and the books I've heard are nothing like personal experience. Like my fellow classmates have said "if someone was to cut off my limbs---to throw me back into the oceans --- to bleed to death while my parts are being sold". I wouldn't enjoy that, I wouldn't like it myself. So let's all just come together for a social agreement for fishermen and for the people who want to save the sharks, such as me. Pass this Bill, that's all I have to say.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you for your testimony. Please state your name for the record.

Joseph Soledad: My name is Joseph Soledad and I go to Simon Sanchez High School. I would like to say how---us, students are taught to look to the future. Although we may not see a lot of shark fining on Guam right now---I would like you to realize that Guam is a mixed cultural society and I see it as, it's only a matter of time before it is brought here to Guam, just like most of the cultures here. Also to say that to kill any animal just for a certain part and that's just pure torture. Most of the attacks---everything I've been hearing tonight is happening to fisherman. But, if you put it into perspective we are invading shark territory, we are going into the oceans fishing their food. And, we're getting mad because they ate a few of our people. We're eating their food they're running out of it. It's only to be expected they're trying to find a new source. I've only heard of a tiger shark consuming human flesh. Besides that I've never heard of a shark attack that wasn't --basically planned. Yes, thank you. Also, I think it's shameful for us to sit here and argue what's the bad side for us, when it's them being hurt, it's them being tortured. Yes, the fishermen---if there are no shark fining here on Guam, passing this bill will not affect them at all, not really because they're not doing it anyway. Ensuring that won't happen in the future shouldn't be a problem right now! We're just making sure it doesn't happen. I don't really see why you're worried about---is it happening here. Like my fellow student here was saying; we're trying to be proud to be a beacon, an example for the rest of the world. At school we are taught, the littlest change can cause a ripple effect, a big change. If Guam can help start

that, that's more than just pride, that's honor. And, honestly what we are doing is just idiotic and savage. We are supposedly the intelligent race. It was also argued that sharks are the highest predators in the ocean. What about us? We hunt more fish, more species than anything else in the world. Sharks aren't the highest predators, we are! We may not live in the ocean. We kill it more than anything else. I've been confused here all night, trying to figure out what to say. All I can say is I'm ashamed by not caring as much as we should. That's all I have to say, thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you.

Jake Limtiaco: I would like to comment on that. You guys have a lot of fishermen, like the guy was saying, 180 some fishermen. Look at how many schools and thousands and thousands of students, not just students but, people around the world. You need to listen to their voices instead of those fishermen. I'm not saying that they're less important, but, when you think about it these students really care about them, when the fishermen are saying the heck with sharks.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Now, I don't want you to misrepresent the fishermen tonight. I don't want you to take us back to a time.

Jake Limtiaco: I just wanted to comment on that. I'm sorry.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: They didn't in any way say they don't care about sharks. And I don't this discussion to go down the road where there are misperceptions. If that's what you heard, that's not what I heard tonight.

Jake Limtiaco: I was just saying Senator alright.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Were you paying attention?

Jake Limtiaco: Yeah, I was paying attention to the people in the back too and their side comments and I really didn't appreciate it.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Well I'm glad you brought that up so we can clarify the concerns the fishermen had with this bill. Thank you. Mr. Chargualaf?

Mr. Chargualaf: Thank you Senator.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you Mr. Soledad by the way for your testimony.

Mr. Chargualaf: I'd like to congratulate Mr. Soledad and Mr. Lintiaco for our young people, our future leaders. Congratulations son, both of you. More of you young people should come out and speak your mind, it's the only way our leaders are going to be aware with what's going on with your thoughts.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Can we just wait until he finishes his testimony? Cause we also have to respect people who are talking.

Mr. Chargualaf: Thank you senator. I'd like to congratulate all of you for being so patient and waiting for all of us to come and make our presentation. My only concern today is that I live in Piti village where the preserve is at, and gentlemen, I'd like to invite each and every one of you to come down. You know last week, when the water was very rough? I found sharks in the Masao river, sharks were that far in. They're predators right? They're looking for food, they can't find it out there in the rough ocean so they come in towards the shore. There were sharks down there and I had Aiden and Stevey's boy with me, and they were the ones who pointed "Uncle, look at all the sharks". So this thing that there's no sharks in Guam, I don't know. I mean, people should go out to the ocean more often, and really, put on your snorkels and fins and go out there and swim in the preserves and you'll see a lot of sharks. When they say there's no sharks, so that means the preserves are not working. But go to the preserves guys, there's a lot of fish and there's a lot of sharks. Why? I guess because that's where their food is at. So that's all I want to say that yes, I find it difficult to believe that there's no sharks in our ocean. Go to the Piti reserve and you'll see it. Oh and another thing, I want to share with you gentlemen: in Palau they're raising all these giant plants. You know the preserve in Piti has some very rich areas where maybe we can bring that to our island. Plant them there in the preserve in the bomb holes, all that. It'll be a nice background for the tourists when they go down fish eye to look at the surrounding with all those giant clams, and the sharks together. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you Mr. Chargualaf. Its ok I'll come back to him and he can close his thoughts but I want to get you and Vangie, and then final thoughts.

Anthony Flores: My name is Anthony Flores, I talked earlier. I'm a part-time fisherman, I just recently retired last year, bought a boat to enjoy, you know, the retirement thing. And hearing all these stories about shark and shark-finning, I haven't seen that done here. I mean, I've seen them bring in a whole shark and marveled at the little boat bringing in an 8 foot shark. I don't think I could do that myself, and it should be that the law should state that we should not commercialize shark finning on Guam. Leave the locals out of it because what I've learned from my years I guess from being brought up on the island, and studying other cultural islands, the sharks on the Pacific, on our side of the ocean, was considered a god. So, we do not fish them, we actually honor them. In Hawaii, they have statues of the

shark god, which they would let them go or feed them, so that they'll go away. And I think our ancestors had that same thing, cause I've never heard or seen shark artifacts in our museum. So there's got to be something said on our culture about us with sharks. The fishermen, like I said, yes they complain, I mean, you got a forebanger going on on your boat. You're bringing in the fish, all gone before you can even, one reel. Okay, reset that thing, try again, another foreset gone. Now that frustrates the fishermen big time cause he's not only trying to fish for sustenance, he may be trying to fish to repay the fuel he had to use to go out and get it. And the lures are not cheap. You know, one small 3 inch lure is anywhere from 3 dollars to 15 dollars. And if you're going to lose all that plus your fuel, to come in empty handed, it's frustrating, to the fishermen of course. I tried it only once, and thank God I got my lure back. But talking to my fellow fisherman, they only bring it in if they have no choice to bring it in cause the lure's so stuck in its jaw that they can't get it out. So the only other way is to bring it in, and you don't want a live shark on your boat anyways so of course they had to kill it and all that. Don't get me wrong, I respect sharks, I mean they are the highest predator in the ocean. But man, also is the top predator, cause we can invade their territory, but they can't come to us on our territory. But the thing is, we should just not commercialize the shark finning, that way, if you hit the shark, take the whole shark, okay? And throw it, have the fins incinerated, collected, that way they won't sale it. And yes, there is plenty sharks, and Galvez, the boys down there complain, and I don't know if these scientists can go down to 400 feet, because that's when the shark hits, is when it's coming up. Not when it's already up but when it's coming up. I've tried that over the pinnacle 700 feet, like wow I got a big fish on my line, it's coming up and then all of a sudden it goes right back down. I pick up my thing, it's gone. I go, "man, I could've had me dinner" but I only had one set of rig, so I had to pack up and leave. And I like these young folks coming out, they're learning a lot. And that's the thing about this new age of information, internet, tv, there's pros and cons. You got shark attackers that lose their family, tiger shark that kind of thing. Then you got the shark lovers. Like, oh he's a beautiful animal, but like a pit bull it can be wagging that tail one minute, and the next, your arm is missing and you're still saying it's a beautiful animal. It's just the commercialize part, again, I'm sorry I keep saying that, and it just sticks to my head.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: we'll make sure that that's made more clear in the bill, if not already.

Anthony Flores: oh, oh and the other thing on your law, it says something about the Governor shall decide on the penalties. The governor? I thought it would be government of Guam. So, since the Governor's my cousin, I guess I can just get waived, penalty?

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: yeah, waive the forfeiture issue.

Anthony Flores: Basically, don't take it out on us local fishermen, we won't even know where to sale it in the first place, some of us. And the lady was talking that there's no commercial fishery here, there's a longline boat down in Apra, there's about 4 or 5 of them parked down there. Then you got a car running around with a united fishery logo on the side, so there's gotta be some kind of commercial fishing going on here. I don't know if it's trans-shipping or what. But I've seen them down south, when I'm going out, they're coming, I don't know where they came from. They're coming in then you see another one going back out. This must be a tag team thing; he's loaded, so he's going to go out and load again. That's about my comment here.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you for your comments and your concerns. Vangie? Yeah, he'll have the final say.

Vangie: I'm actually providing testimony on behalf of our acting director Tommy Morrison and then I'd like to add my own stuff too. The bureau of statistics and plans wishes to express support for the current version of bill 44-31. The authors of the bill understand the importance of protecting shark populations in relation to fisheries, coral reefs, and cultural practices. This bill was written with the input of scientific data with multiple sources including worldwide and local studies. We can learn a lot from our neighbors. Bill 44-31 is Guam's chance to join our brothers and sisters of the Pacific in protecting an ancient cultural icon, the shark. Our neighbors in Hawaii and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas have passed laws similar to Bill 44-31 to ensure that shark fins are not sold or traded throughout the islands, and as we've heard many times Palau has one of the strictest regulations related to sharks, and they now have a shark sanctuary. Not only does the shark sanctuary protect sharks from being taken, it also helps Palau's economy by offering an enhanced diving experience for tourists to see a larger population of sharks. Guam has a chance to follow the lead of our neighbors and be a part of the effort across Micronesia to protect critical species. We need to protect these species because sharks are a critical part of the ocean's ecosystem; our fisheries, coral reef, and our culture need sharks to have a healthy amount of fish to keep the food web in balance. Studies have shown that without sharks, commercial fisheries and coral reef ecosystems will decline. It is also known that shark populations in our area are in a continual decline. There have been 50 species of sharks identified within the western central Pacific ocean. Thirty of these species are listed in the endangered, vulnerable, or near threatened list. Many of the sharks are similar to the ones cited around Guam's waters. This bill provides another layer of protection for these threatened animals. I think that one of the things that we're hearing is that we want to ensure that the people who fish shark in a sustainable manner or for sustenance are going to be protected from this. I think that that's the issue related to our fishermen. The bill allows for this practice to continue. We want to be able to protect fishermen and the fisheries that they rely on. The bill does protect these fishermen who take sharks for the

purpose of consuming it, and I know how many people have talked about how that is really our practice. Is that we just don't take the fins and that's not the way that we're doing it. But like some of the students have mentioned, part of the value of this bill is that it protects us from the future. Maybe that's not a practice now, but it will then it will not be something that we will then engage in. simply put, sharks are in trouble and without their presence, the delicate balance of the food web, our cultural identity, and the ecosystem that we all depend on will be in trouble. Bill 44-31 provides extra protection for these key predators and they do need protection. The bill will not just protect sharks, it will also protect our fisheries, our ecosystems, and our future. We support the bill in its current form and are happy that it was introduced and are willing to support creating additional legislation or legislation that clarifies the issues related to some of the discussion we had tonight but also protects the delicate marine resources that we are all tasked with managing. Thank you for us providing the testimony and this is by our acting director Thomas Morrison. I also wanted to say, I'm not sure because I had to run out and get my car, but I'm the point of contact for coral reef initiative for Guam and we are just going through some of our coral reef issues, and I know enforcement is a big issue. And this year we had provided funding to DAWR to hire two enforcement officers. Next year we will be able to provide funding for three, and the subsequent year we'll have enough funding to provide for an additional two. I know that they are trying to do an aggressive conservation recruitment process and I know that through coral reef funding and some other funding opportunities we are here to really understand the need for enforcement and provide a funding for that. And yes, I do make more than 1500 a month.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Okay, Joseph.

Joseph: first of all, I would like to say I'm sorry again for interrupting. My previous comment is that if this were held on a weekend, more of us students would be here definitely. Lastly, I'd just like to say that, as far as I know, the senate is supposed to be the voice of the people, and no offense to the fishermen but there are, as far as I can tell, hundreds of adults and thousands of students who are for this bill, and you were elected to hear our voices, and our opinions, which you have done tonight. And I only hope and pray that you take everything we've said and decide what's best for our island, and not just a handful of people. Thank you.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Thank you. It's contagious right?

Anthony Flores: I know. The thing was, he's right, there are many kids.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: They are inspiring.

Anthony Flores: That's the future generation

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: They are our present.

Anthony Flores: A lot of thing talking about shark, has anyone talked about their migration patterns? Maybe that's why we don't have sharks because they migrated somewhere else. I mean it's not hard to bring a shark up from 300 feet, all you need is a bonita with blood. Just put it on the side of the boat, just wiggle it a couple of times and watch, that boy's right next to the boat.

Mr. Chargualaf: I know why there's no sharks out there. Everytime they shoot a bomb out there, what's what, what do they call that place? I'll take a blow cap, I'll take all of you senators, I'll take a blow cap and explode it, and in minutes, we'll be swarmed by sharks.

Anthony Flores: I was reading that military thing, they're thinking of closing off Galvez, fishing area, Santa Rosa, because of their training. I go oh man, there goes the good fishing spots, all gone. What are we to do now, go out further? I mean we are standing on the tallest mountain in the world that's underwater, and there's hardly any shallow areas, and I just thought I'd point that out.

SENATOR RORY RESPICIO: Let me see if the senators have any questions or comments, then we'll wrap up. Just want to recognize former senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero, thank her for being here and also for the work that you do in this area. So, this concludes our public hearing. I want to thank everyone who came out and testified and endured this evening's hearing. Thank you, we're adjourned.

Senator Respicio concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 44-31 (COR) at 8:30 P.M.

WRITTEN TESTMONIES & PETITIONS

The Committee on Natural Resources received additional testimonies in support of Bill 44, following the adjournment of the public hearing. Those reports are appended to this report.

The Committee also received over 12,000 emails as a result of two separate online petitions that circulated in Support of Bill 44. These testimonies will be made available in electronic copy only and will be accessible on the Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com.

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

All those testifying on the matter of Bill No. 44-31 (COR) supported the intent of the legislation. Some, however, were concerned with the language as written. The local

fishermen, were the most outspoken. Most importantly, the local fishing community, while in support of the intent of Bill 44, expressed grave concern with the language as originally written. These concerns, presented during the public hearing, are detailed in Part II of this digest. Two main concerns dealt with Bill 44's legislative intent which was received as an implication that Guam's local fishermen are participating in the destructive practice of shark finning; in addition to the reading of the language to mean that local fishermen, who may fish for shark for personal consumption, would then be criminalized, even if exempt from any associated penalties.

The language of Bill 440-31 (COR) was amended in such a way as to address the concerns; and to add, delete, and reorder other sections to strengthen the bill. Most of these changes are detailed as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

- Removed references to "local data" and scientific processes, to address the concerns about implications of local fishing practices; and concerns with research methods for findings that were only released after the introduction of this bill.
- Included language to reflect the Legislature's intent to protect the traditions, custom, culture and livelihood of the Chamorro people.

Section 2. Definitions.

- Revised the definition of "shark fin" to clarify that it is the raw or dried fin or tail of a shark that has been removed from the body.
- Adds a new definition for "shark finning" which is defined as the taking of a shark, removing the fin or fins (whether or not including the tail).

Section 3. Shark Fins.

- Clarifies the list of unlawful acts; and added consideration for restaurants in possession of shark fins at the time of enactment.
- Provides an exemption for those in possession for research purposes.
- Provides an exemption for those in possession for subsistence purposes.
- Subsections on criminal and civil penalties were removed, as penalties are covered in Section 7, "Penalties."

Section 4. Ray Parts.

- Clarifies the list of unlawful acts; and added consideration for restaurants in possession of shark fins at the time of enactment.
- Provides an exemption for those in possession for research purposes.

- Provides an exemption for those in possession for subsistence purposes.
- Subsections on criminal and civil penalties were removed, as penalties are covered in Section 7, "Penalties."

Section 5. Rules and Regulations.

- **This section is a new section added.** This adds a new section to Chapter 63, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated to direct the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. Consultation.

- **This section is a new section added.** This adds a new section to Chapter 63 of Title 5 GCA to mandate the Dept of Ag to review this Act every five (5) years in consultation with various entities, including scientists and local fishermen.

Section 7. Penalties.

- Amends 5 GCA § 63129, "Penalties", to include the new subsections created by this Act (see Section 3 and 4).
- Amends 5 GCA § 63129, "Penalties", to reflect that the authority authorized to carry out a seizure is an official of the government of Guam, under processes issued by the Supreme Court, and not the Governor himself.

Section 8. Severability.

- Standard severability-clause added.

In consideration of the aforementioned revisions, the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources hereby submits its findings and recommendations on Bill No. 44-31 (COR), which is to report out a revised version, **Substitute Bill No. 44-31 (COR)**.

I MINA' TRENTA I UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

As Substituted by the Committee on Rules;
Natural & Human Resources; and
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz 
R.J. Respicio 

**AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING,
OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF
SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING
§63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2,
§63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the drastic increase in the recent demand for shark fins has increased the cruel
4 practice of shark finning; whereby a shark is caught, the fin is cut off, and the
5 shark carcass is returned to the water. This has been the cause of slow and painful
6 deaths to tens of millions of sharks each year. Some sharks starve to death, other
7 fish slowly eat sharks, and some drown because most sharks need to keep moving
8 to force water through their gills for oxygen.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that while sharks have roamed our
10 oceans for over 400 million years, surviving five (5) extinctions, the practice of
11 shark finning has attributed to the decline in shark populations worldwide. Sharks
12 are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an important role in
13 our ocean's ecosystem. Sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable

1 to overfishing than most fish. Unlike other fish species, most sharks do not reach
2 reproductive maturity until seven to twelve years of age and then only give birth to
3 a small litter of young; and thus, sharks cannot rebuild their populations as quickly
4 as other fish species.

5 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds sharks, rays and skates are part of the
6 same subclass of cartilaginous fish. Rays only give birth to one or two pups at a
7 time and the females take a year off between litters. Their large size, migratory
8 behavior, low birth rate, and large size at maturity make them highly vulnerable to
9 fishing pressure.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that most of the fishermen participating in
11 fisheries on Guam do so primarily for subsistence, barter and cultural sharing
12 purposes, such as for fiestas and food exchanges with family and friends, including
13 the occasional barter or sale of a portion of their catch for a nominal fee to recover
14 their costs. It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to protect the traditions,
15 custom, culture, and livelihood of the Chamorro people.

16 It is also the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to prohibit the practice of shark
17 finning; and further to prohibit the possession, sale, offer for sale, take, purchase,
18 barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribution of shark fins or ray parts,
19 which would otherwise support the market for such goods; and further to establish
20 penalties and local enforcement authorities.

21 **Section 2. Definitions.** New items (x), (y), (z), (aa) and (bb) are hereby
22 added to §63101 of Chapter 63, 5 GCA to read as follows:

23 “(x) Ray - is defined as animals in the Order Myliobatiformes,
24 including but not limited to Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*), Manta Rays
25 (*Manta birostris*) and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).

26 (y) Shark - is defined as an animal commonly known as a shark
27 and includes all animals in the Orders Hexanchiformes, Pristiophoriformes,

1 Squatiniforms, Heterodontiformes, Orectolobiformes, Lamniformes and
2 Carcharhiniformes.

3 (z) Shark Fin – is defined, for the purposed of this Act, as the raw
4 or dried fin or tail of a shark that has been removed from the body.

5 (aa) Ray Part – is defined as any part of a ray.

6 (bb) Shark Finning – is defined as the taking of a shark, removing
7 the fin or fins (whether or not including the tail) of a shark, and returning the
8 remainder of the shark to the sea.”

9 **Section 3. Shark Fins.** A new Section 63114.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter
10 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

11 **“§ 63114.1. Shark Fins.**

12 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for sale, take,
13 purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute shark fins in Guam.

14 Restaurants in possession of shark fins which are prepared for consumption
15 upon the enactment of this Act, may sell or offer for sale such shark fins for a
16 period of ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act.

17 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any person with a valid license or permit
18 issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct research and
19 who possesses shark fins shall not be held in violation of this Act.

20 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a shark for
21 subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes shall not be held in
22 violation of this Act.

23 **Section 4. Ray Parts.** A new Section 63114.2 is hereby *added* to Chapter
24 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

25 **“§ 63114.2. Ray Parts.**

26 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for sale, take,
27 purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute ray parts in Guam.

1 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any person with a valid license or permit
2 issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct research and
3 who possesses ray parts shall not be held in violation of this Act.

4 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of ray parts for
5 subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes shall not be held in
6 violation of this Act.

7 **Section 5. Rules and Regulations.** A new Section 63114.4 is hereby
8 *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

9 **“§ 63114.3. Rules and Regulations.**

10 The Director of the Department of Agriculture shall develop rules and
11 regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Adjudication Act (AAA), Title
12 5, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 9, to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such
13 rules and regulations may be revisited annually for revision through the AAA
14 process.

15 **Section 6. Consultation.** A new Section 63114.4 is hereby *added* to
16 Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

17 **“§ 63114.4. Consultation.**

18 Every five (5) years this Act shall be reviewed by the Department of
19 Agriculture to determine if changes are necessary. In so doing, the Department
20 shall consult with the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, local fisherman, including the Guam
22 Fishermen’s Co-Operative Association, the Marianas Underwater Fishing
23 Federation, and the Guam Organization of Salt Water Anglers, to have local input
24 to balance scientific data presented.”

25 **Section 7. Penalties.** Section 63129 of Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code
26 Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

27 **“§ 63129. Penalty.**

1 Any person violating §63104, §63105, §63106, §63107, ~~or~~ §63108, or
2 §63114.1 or §63114.2 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable by
3 imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Five
4 Hundred Dollars (\$500), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or by
5 both. Any person violating §63606.1 or §63606.2 of this Chapter shall be guilty of
6 a felony, and upon conviction thereof may be imprisoned for not more than five (5)
7 years, or fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both.
8 A violation of any other provision of this Article or its supporting regulations shall
9 be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a
10 fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars
11 (\$500), or by imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or by both fine and
12 imprisonment. In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components, equipment for
13 their manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish products gathered through
14 the use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles and
15 vessels used for their transport shall be subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by
16 ~~the Governor~~ an authorized government of Guam official under process issued by
17 the Superior Court except that such seizure without such process may be made
18 when the seizure is incidental to an arrest or a search pursuant to a search warrant,
19 or as provided by §63128 of this Article.

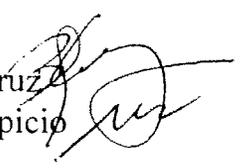
20 **Section 8. Severability.** If any of these provisions of this Act or the
21 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity
22 shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be given
23 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of
24 this Act are severable.

I MINA' TRENTA I UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz
R.J. Respicio



**AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING,
OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF
SHARK FINS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND
§63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1 AND §63114.2 TO
CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED**

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that it is the responsibility of the Government of Guam to protect and preserve Guam's limited natural resources. Upon discovery that a resource is in serious jeopardy, it is necessary that our government enact local measures to stop activities that contribute to the endangerment of our resources.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that Sharks are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an important role in our ocean's ecosystem. Sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to overfishing than most fish, and data from local, federal, and international agencies show a decline in the shark populations both locally and worldwide. Unlike other fish species, most sharks do not reach reproductive maturity until seven to twelve years of age and then only give birth to a small litter of young. Thus, sharks cannot rebuild their populations quickly once they are overfished.

1 Sharks, rays, and skates are part of the same subclass of cartilaginous fish.
2 Unfortunately, rays are caught for the sale of their parts based on supposed
3 medicinal claims. Rays only give birth to one or two pups at a time and the
4 females take a year off between litters. Like sharks, this low reproductive rate
5 makes them vulnerable to overfishing. Their large size, migratory behavior, low
6 birth rate, and large size at maturity make them highly vulnerable to fishing
7 pressure.

8 The practice of shark finning, where a shark is caught, the fin is cut off, and
9 the shark is returned to the water, causes tens of millions of sharks to die a slow
10 death each year. Some sharks starve to death, other fish slowly eat sharks, and
11 some drown because most sharks need to keep moving to force water through their
12 gills for oxygen.

13 Sharks and rays are an essential element of the ocean's ecosystem, and by
14 reducing the demand for shark fins and rays, the Government of Guam must also
15 ensure that sharks and rays will not become extinct. Therefore, it is the intent of *I*
16 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enact local fines and penalties in addition to those
17 prescribed by U.S. Public Law 111-348.

18 **Section 2.** New items (x), (y), (z), and (aa) are hereby *added* to § 63101 of
19 Chapter 63, 5 GCA to read as follows:

20 “(x) Ray - is defined as animals in the Order Myliobatiformes,
21 including but not limited to Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*), Manta Rays
22 (*Manta birostris*) and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).

23 (y) Shark - is defined as an animal commonly known as a shark and
24 includes all animals in the Orders Hexanchiformes, Pristiophoriformes,
25 Squatiniiformes, Heterodontiformes, Orectolobiformes, Lamniformes and
26 Carcharhiniiformes.

27 (z) Shark Fin – is defined as the raw or dried fin or tail of a shark.

1 (aa) Ray Part - is defined as any part of a ray.”

2 **Section 3.** Item (s) of § 63101 of Chapter 63, Title 5 of the Guam Code
3 Annotated is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

4 “(s) Take - is defined as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, angle, seize, kill, trap,
5 harm, shoot in any way or by an agency or device; every attempt to do so acts or to
6 assist any other person in the doing of or the attempts to do such acts. Except that
7 the accidental catching of a shark or ray by a person fishing with hook and line
8 does not amount to a taking if the shark or ray is immediately returned to the
9 water.”

10 **Section 4.** A new Section 63114.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5,
11 Guam Code Annotated to read:

12 **“§63114.1. Shark Fins.**

13 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, take, purchase, barter,
14 transport, export or import, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins, alive or
15 dead, or any part thereof except as permitted by the department for educational and
16 research purposes consistent with federal law.

17 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a shark for
18 subsistence purposes, (non-commercial) only shall not be subject to the penalties
19 of this act.

20 (c) Criminal Penalties. A person convicted under this section shall be
21 punishable as follows:

22 (1) First Offense - Imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or a
23 fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both.

24 (2) Second or Subsequent Offense(s) - Imprisonment of not more than
25 one (1) year or a fine of not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) or
26 both.

1 (3) Each 'taking' or any other act prohibited by this section with
2 respect to a shark shall constitute separate violations.

3 (d) Civil Penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person within Guam waters
4 or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to take, possess, sell, purchase,
5 barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in
6 any manner, any shark, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted
7 to do so as provided in this section, or violates any permit or regulation issued
8 pursuant to this section, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Department of
9 Aquatics and Wildlife Resources of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5.000)
10 for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No civil
11 penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a
12 hearing with respect to such violation. Upon any failure to pay the civil penalty
13 assessed under this subsection, the Director of the Department of Aquatics and
14 Wildlife Resources shall request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in
15 the Superior Court of Guam to collect the penalty and such court shall have
16 jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing any such action, the
17 court must sustain the Director's action if supported by substantial evidence.”

18 **Section 5.** A new Section 63114.2 is hereby *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5,
19 Guam Code Annotated to read:

20 “**§63114.2. Ray Parts.**

21 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, take, purchase, barter,
22 transport, export or import, offer for sale, trade, or distribute ray parts, alive or
23 dead, or any part thereof except as permitted by the department for educational and
24 research purposes consistent with federal law.

25 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a ray for
26 subsistence purposes, (non-commercial) only shall not be subject to the penalties
27 of this act.

1 (c) Criminal Penalties. A person convicted under this section shall be
2 punishable as follows:

3 (1) First Offense - Imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or a
4 fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both.

5 (2) Second or Subsequent Offense(s) - Imprisonment of not more than
6 one (1) year or a fine of not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) or
7 both.

8 (3) Each 'taking' or any other act prohibited by this section with
9 respect to a ray shall constitute separate violations.

10 (d) Civil Penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person within Guam waters
11 or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to take, possess, sell, purchase,
12 barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in
13 any manner, any ray, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted to
14 do so as provided in this section, or violates any permit or regulation issued
15 pursuant to this section, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Department of
16 Aquatics and Wildlife Resources of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000)
17 for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No civil
18 penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a
19 hearing with respect to such violation. Upon any failure to pay the civil penalty
20 assessed under this subsection, the Director of the Department of Aquatics and
21 Wildlife Resources shall request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in
22 the Superior Court of Guam to collect the penalty and such court shall have
23 jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing any such action, the
24 court must sustain the Director's action if supported by substantial evidence.”

25 **Section 6.** Section 63129 of Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated is
26 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

27 “§ 63129. **Penalty.**

1 Any person violating § 63104, § 63105, § 63106, § 63107, ~~or~~ § 63108, or §
2 63116.3 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not
3 more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500),
4 nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or by both. Any person violating §
5 63606.1 or § 63606.2 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a felony, and upon
6 conviction thereof may be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not
7 more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both. A violation of any
8 other provision of this Article or its supporting regulations shall be guilty of a
9 misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not less
10 than Fifty Dollars (\$50), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), or by
11 imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or by both fine and imprisonment.
12 In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components, equipment for their
13 manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish products gathered through the
14 use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles and
15 vessels used for their transport shall be subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by
16 the Governor under process issued by the Superior Court except that such seizure
17 without such process may be made when the seizure is incidental to an arrest or a
18 search pursuant to a search warrant, or as provided by § 63128 of this Article.”

I MINA' TRENTA I UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

As Substituted by the Committee on Rules;
Natural & Human Resources; and
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz
R.J. Respicio

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS, RAYS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1, §63114.2, §63114.3, AND §63114.4 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the drastic increase in the recent demand for shark fins has increased the cruel
4 practice of shark finning; whereby a shark is caught, the fin is cut off, and the
5 shark carcass is returned to the water. This has been the cause of slow and painful
6 deaths to tens of millions of sharks each year. Some sharks starve to death, other
7 fish slowly eat sharks, and some drown because most sharks need to keep moving
8 to force water through their gills for oxygen.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that while sharks have roamed our
10 oceans for over 400 million years, surviving five (5) extinctions, the practice of
11 shark finning has attributed to the decline in shark populations worldwide. Sharks
12 are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an important role in
13 our ocean's ecosystem. Sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable

1 to overfishing than most fish. Unlike other fish species, most sharks do not reach
2 reproductive maturity until seven to twelve years of age and then only give birth to
3 a small litter of young; and thus, sharks cannot rebuild their populations as quickly
4 as other fish species.

5 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds sharks, rays and skates are part of the
6 same subclass of cartilaginous fish. Rays only give birth to one or two pups at a
7 time and the females take a year off between litters. Their large size, migratory
8 behavior, low birth rate, and large size at maturity make them highly vulnerable to
9 fishing pressure.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that most of the fishermen participating in
11 fisheries on Guam do so primarily for subsistence, barter and cultural sharing
12 purposes, such as for fiestas and food exchanges with family and friends, including
13 the occasional barter or sale of a portion of their catch for a nominal fee to recover
14 their costs. It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to protect the traditions,
15 custom, culture, and livelihood of the Chamorro people.

16 It is also the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to prohibit the practice of shark
17 finning; and further to prohibit the possession, sale, offer for sale, take, purchase,
18 barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribution of sharks, shark fins, rays or
19 ray parts, which would otherwise support the market for such goods; and further to
20 establish penalties and local enforcement authorities.

21 **Section 2. Definitions.** New items (x), (y), (z), (aa) and (bb) are hereby
22 added to §63101 of Chapter 63, 5 GCA to read as follows:

23 “(x) Ray - is defined as animals in the Order Myliobatiformes,
24 including but not limited to Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*), Manta Rays
25 (*Manta birostris*) and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).

26 (y) Shark - is defined as an animal commonly known as a shark
27 and includes all animals in the Orders Hexanchiformes, Pristiophoriformes,

1 Squatiniforms, Heterodontiformes, Orectolobiformes, Lamniformes and
2 Carcharhiniformes.

3 (z) Shark Fin – is defined, for the purposed of this Act, as the raw
4 or dried fin or tail of a shark that has been removed from the body.

5 (aa) Ray Part – is defined as any part of a ray.

6 (bb) Shark Finning – is defined as the taking of a shark, removing
7 the fin or fins (whether or not including the tail) of a shark, and returning the
8 remainder of the shark to the sea.”

9 **Section 3. Shark Fins.** A new Section 63114.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter
10 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

11 **“§ 63114.1. Shark Fins.**

12 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for sale, take,
13 purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute shark fins in Guam.

14 Restaurants in possession of shark fins which are prepared for consumption
15 upon the enactment of this Act, may sell or offer for sale such shark fins for a
16 period of ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act.

17 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any person with a valid license or permit
18 issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct research and
19 who possesses shark fins shall not be held in violation of this Act.

20 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a shark for
21 subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes shall not be held in
22 violation of this Act.

23 **Section 4. Ray Parts.** A new Section 63114.2 is hereby *added* to Chapter
24 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

25 **“§ 63114.2. Ray Parts.**

26 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sale, offer for sale, take,
27 purchase, barter, transport, export, import, trade or distribute ray parts in Guam.

1 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), any person with a valid license or permit
2 issued by the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct research and
3 who possesses ray parts shall not be held in violation of this Act.

4 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of ray parts for
5 subsistence and traditional and cultural sharing purposes shall not be held in
6 violation of this Act.

7 **Section 5. Rules and Regulations.** A new Section 63114.4 is hereby
8 *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

9 **“§ 63114.3. Rules and Regulations.**

10 The Director of the Department of Agriculture shall develop rules and
11 regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Adjudication Act (AAA), Title
12 5, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 9, to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such
13 rules and regulations may be revisited annually for revision through the AAA
14 process.

15 **Section 6. Consultation.** A new Section 63114.4 is hereby *added* to
16 Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:

17 **“§ 63114.4. Consultation.**

18 Every five (5) years this Act shall be reviewed by the Department of
19 Agriculture to determine if changes are necessary. In so doing, the Department
20 shall consult with the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, local fisherman, including the Guam
22 Fishermen’s Co-Operative Association, the Marianas Underwater Fishing
23 Federation, and the Guam Organization of Salt Water Anglers, to have local input
24 to balance scientific data presented.”

25 **Section 7. Penalties.** Section 63129 of Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code
26 Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

27 **“§ 63129. Penalty.**

1 Any person violating §63104, §63105, §63106, §63107, ~~or~~ §63108, or
2 §63114.1 or §63114.2 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable by
3 imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Five
4 Hundred Dollars (\$500), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or by
5 both. Any person violating §63606.1 or §63606.2 of this Chapter shall be guilty of
6 a felony, and upon conviction thereof may be imprisoned for not more than five (5)
7 years, or fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both.
8 A violation of any other provision of this Article or its supporting regulations shall
9 be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a
10 fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars
11 (\$500), or by imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or by both fine and
12 imprisonment. In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components, equipment for
13 their manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish products gathered through
14 the use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles and
15 vessels used for their transport shall be subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by
16 the Governor under process issued by the Superior Court except that such seizure
17 without such process may be made when the seizure is incidental to an arrest or a
18 search pursuant to a search warrant, or as provided by §63128 of this Article.

19 **Section 8. Severability.** If any of these provisions of this Act or the
20 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity
21 shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be given
22 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of
23 this Act are severable.

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
 COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
 AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 9:00 AM

I Liheslatura • Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

Bill No. 44-31 (COR) – B.J.F. Cruz – “An Act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated.”

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ John Raymond Aguon	Self	Oppose		✓	888-8806	cfulai2email.com
✓ JAYMON MEDINA	GWHS/MARINEMANIA	SUPPORT		✓	4770814	
✓ Angelica Gagan	GWHS/Marine Mania	SUPPORT		✓	988-7199	a.gagan@hotmail.com
✓ Evelyn Quiel	SSHS Sharks MADE	SUPPORT		✓	858-1984	
✓ JOHNSON, JEN	GWHS/MARINEMANIA	SUPPORT		✓	977-0305	
✓ MANNY DUGNAI	GFCA	OPPOSE	X	X		
✓ TOM CAMACHO	GOSA	OPPOSE	X	X		
✓ Val Brown	NOAA Fisheries			✓	735-4032	valerie.brown@noaa.gov
✓ Dr Jennifer McIlwain	UOG Marine Lab	Support		✓	—	jen.mcilwain@gmail.com
✓ Celestino Aguon	Agriculture - DAWR	Support		✓	735-3955	tiroaguon@hotmail.com

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ Samuel Nietzer	UOG Marine Lab	Support			967-1630	samuel.nietzer@gmail.com
Wendi Herring	St. John's Kids for Coral	Support			482-5654	wendisherring@mac.com
✓ Lex Lee-Sang	Kids for Coral	Support			488-5394	an.mallower4825654@gmail.com
✓ Marivic Copati	Simon Sanchez High School	Support			987-3824	vicky11-13@hotmail.com
✓ Jaka Taitano	George Washington	Support			1087-9300	talks.taitano@yaho.com
Patrick L. B.	Ayuda Found	Support			797-4902	
Kirstie Rendall	UOG Marine Lab	Support			929-6476	klrendall@hotmail.com
Petrunne Cruz	Simon Sanchez High School	Support			777-2346	plcruz@gdae.net
Ed Changualat	Fisherman	oppose			482-0219	
	Refined Cor Guam / Fisherman	oppose			868-8343	ACFLOWERS47@GMAIL.COM

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Kay-lynn L. Gr.	GWHS/	Support		✓	997-2085	
David Santos Jr.	GWHS	Support		✓	989-8300	
Faesho Manibusan	FWHS	Support		✓	988-5451	fmanibusan2@hotmail.com
CHRISTINA BENAVENTE	GWHS	Support		✓	727-9311	christina.benavente_28@hotmail.com
Roy Ige	GWHS	Support		✓	929-8220	sportyroy_27@hotmail.com
DALE ALVAREZ	Samoa Bero Mayor	OPPOSE	(not testifying)		848-1529	dalealvarez26@gmail.com
Jelene A.V. Fejeran	GWHS/Marine Mania	support			898-1951	Jelene_audrey@yahoo.com
Jake Limtiaw	GWHS	Support		✓	727-2016	jx6@gmail.com
ELAINA TODD	Marine Mania/self	SUPPORT!	✓		977-0359	elainatodd@gmail.com
Jasmelyn Delosrios	GWHS	SUPPORT		✓	472-5426	Jasmelyn_delosrios@hotmail.com

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Ranson	JFKHS	Oppose support			488-5444	_____
Leyann Lusung	SSHS	supporter			898 4010	
HA. Borje	DOE	support				
Jonathan "Atalaja" Taitano fisherman		OPPOSE		/	472-5761	_____
Arlene Howard	low	support			692-8597	
Shanell Gazley	GW	support			782-8841	shanellegazley@guamcc.com
Charles Hernandez	GW	support		/	477-7727	cell# 488-7727

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO

MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ Sabrina Boga	SSHs	Support		✓	987-9069	sabrinakristine14@yca.gu
✓ Thomas Morrison	BSP / Vangie Lujan on behalf of	Support		✓	472-4201	
Kassandra O'Connor	SSHs	Support				
Brett Taylor	University of Guam / James Cook University	Support				

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
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CHAIRPERSON
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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
XXXXXXXXXX	UOG Monte Lab	Support			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX a33mille@gmail.com
XXXXXXXXXX	UOG ML	Support			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX trauicroyal@guam.net
✓ Joseph Soledad	Simon Sanchez High	Support		✓		JJCS-Kingbori@hotmail.com

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



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THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

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I Liheslatura • Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ Milken Felipe II	GWHS / Marine Mania	Support		✓	477-3489	
✓ Giordon Westington	Marine Mania	Support		✓	483-5895	giordoneymail.com
✓ Natiñodal Rosario	Marine Mania	Support	✓	✓	969-8953	loring-starr1@hotmail.com
✓ Jamisha Igeciv	Marine Mania / GWHS	Support	✓	✓	472-5926	mcivl-mun-ou@hotmail.com
✓ Karon Johnson	personal	Support		✓	479-4146	Karon.johnson@usdoj.gov
✓ Haley Singler	kids for coral	Support			929-8735	haley.singler@gmail.com
✓ Mitchell Singler	St. John's School	Support			929-8735	stjohnsguam.com
✓ Reagan Singler	St. Johns	Support			"	"
✓ Cole Singler	St. Johns	Support			"	"
✓ Karen Wall	UOG Marine Lab	Support			967-1630	marec.wall@uog.edu

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,
OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Chairman, Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign
& Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hesler St., Suite 302
Hagatna, GU 96910

Dear Chairman Respicio,

I am writing in support of Bill No. 44-31 (COR), which was recently considered by the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources, and is scheduled to be considered by the full Guam Legislature. I commend you for introducing this legislation, which would amend the Guam Code to prohibit the possession, selling, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts. This critical conservation and enforcement measure compliments similar legislation which I sponsored and was recently signed into law on the federal level, the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-348).

I introduced the Shark Conservation Act in order to end the wasteful and abusive practice of shark finning. The law strengthens the enforcement of shark finning prohibitions by making it illegal to remove shark fins, including the tail, and discarding the carcass at sea. Bill No. 44-31 would supplement these prohibitions at the local level. It is an important conservation measure that will help to protect these essential marine species from further decline.

Sharks are critical to maintaining our healthy marine ecosystems and I appreciate your efforts for their protection. I support Bill No. 44-31 and would encourage your colleagues to pass your bill when it considered by the full Guam Legislature.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

RECEIVED
2/18/11 9:37AM



Guam Animals In Need, Inc.

P O Box 22365, Barrigada, GMF GU 96921

To learn more about Guam Animals In Need, please visit:

www.guamanimals.org/email guamanimals@yahoo.com

Dear Senator Respicio:

As the island of Guam's humane society we are writing to applaud your efforts to protect our island's sharks by introducing Bill No. 44-31, which prohibits the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts in Guam. The suffering endured by sharks subjected to finning is abhorrent, with animals being landed and finned while still alive, and then thrown back into the sea to endure horrible, slow deaths. With over 73 million sharks killed globally every year to satisfy the demand for shark fin soup, shark species are facing a dire future. The Pacific region is key to their survival.

Our friends in Hawai'i have passed legislation banning the possession and sale of shark fins, CNMI has introduced a similar bill and our neighbors in Palau have created a shark sanctuary in all their waters. We urge Guam to lead the Marianas region by doing the same! Sharks are critical components of the marine ecosystem, having existed as top predators for over 400 million years. Visitors to Guam come to dive with the sharks and the other diverse and rich marine life that exists because of sharks. We can't let this unique and valuable resource disappear.

In January President Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act into law, banning the removal and transfer of shark fins in U.S. waters. Your bill goes one step further by outlawing possession of fins and ray parts. Please take the next step and make all of Guam's waters a shark sanctuary by banning all commercial shark fishing.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bartels,
President
Guam Animals In Need

GUAM LEGISLATURE REPRODUCTION/MAIL ROOM
DATE: 01/31/11
TIME: 1:37 [AM] [PM]
RECEIVED BY:



GUAM ORGANIZATION OF SALTWATER ANGLERS

A not for profit Corporation

P.O. BOX 420, HAGATNA, GUAM 96932 Tel: (671) 797-0005 Fax: (671) 472-0404 Email: info@guamanglers.org • Web Site: www.guamanglers.org

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Rory Respicio
Chairman, Committee on Rules
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian
Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Testimony in opposition to Bill No. 44-31, as written.

Hafa Adai Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources.

For the record, my name is Tom Camacho, a resident of Sinajana, a fisherman and President of the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers (GOSA), a not-for-profit corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today as a resident of Guam and I am representing the members of the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers and their families. Our members are comprised of 95% Chamorro and all are recreational and subsistence fishermen and women. We support the ban on the practice of shark finning, however, we do not support Bill No. 44-31, as written.

GOSA was formed to provide a forum for recreational and subsistence saltwater anglers; to provide education to members and youth concerning fishing techniques (traditional and non-traditional), improved catches, and overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship; to support marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational and subsistence fishing in Guam.

Mr. Chairman, it is interesting to note that the legislative findings and intent are nearly identical to that of the Hawaii Senate Bill 2169 and CNMI Public Law 17-27. If my hunch is correct, then I would not bother to ask for the "local data" that shows a decline in the shark populations locally – as there would be no such data. We are in no way suggesting that sharks, like many other marine creatures, are no more or less susceptible to human and environmental threats because they are.

Mr. Chairman, the lack of any science based research on the shark populations in the Marianas is cause for great concern as there is no evidence that justifies the discovery that a resource, “sharks”, are in serious jeopardy. We would, however, agree with the finding that sharks are one of the top predators in the marine food chain – not only do they prey on other marine life, they prey on human life as well - as evidenced by our local Search and Rescue officials within the Guam Fire and Police personnel. Fishermen can even suggest the opposite through observation – that sharks are abundant around Guam!

Mr. Chairman, let us not confuse the issue of Shark Finning and prohibiting the “take” of a shark. The concern that is being raised is the practice of shark finning wherein one captures a shark, removes the fins, and returns the shark to the water as stated on page 2, line 8 of the proposed bill. We should be focusing on the issue of shark finning and not try to be the heroes that destroy their people of unique cultures and traditions. Our Government has already killed 38 fishermen since the creation of the Marine Preserve Areas in 1997 coupled with the lack of a proper community or “village” based management plan – one that is all inclusive and not derived by individuals that see available federal monies for employment and job security.

United States Public Law 111-348, more specifically, 16 U.S.C. 1857 (1)(P), addresses the real concern in the practice of shark finning. It in no way insinuates that the shark population is in jeopardy.

Albeit the intent of Bill No. 44-31 is great, it is - once again - our government that displaces its people, their culture, and traditions. I do not think that any Guamanian **would not** want to do their part to protect and preserve our resources. It’s not just our Chamorro culture; it’s the Guamanian culture. It’s what the Chamorro’s have passed on to people of other nationalities that call Guam home.

The practice of “Shark Finning” is not a way of life for our fishermen. As a matter of fact, locals would rather discard the fins and consume the flesh, and possibly practice backyard taxidermy.

We used to be a people that engaged and communicated, we bark and moan that DOD is not communicating with us regarding the military build-up; are we not the same? Talk about the “pot calling the kettle black.” It just happens all too often, recent examples are the indigenous fishing rules and regulations and the shot-gun fishing ban proposals – such as this Bill and the scuba bill.

Basta! Enough! I challenge you Senators and our government agencies to engage with us. Not just invite but - dialogue, communicate, exchange ideas – be the leaders that you are supposed to be and be the channel of communication.

I am a firm believer that one who debates an issue should also present solutions to the issue; this is what democracy is all about.

With that being said, Mr. Chairman, I propose the following changes to Bill No. 44-31:

- Page 1, Section 1, Line 10 – after the word “from” strike “local”.
- Page 1, Section 1, Line 11 after the word “populations”, strike the words “both locally and”.

If we don't have the local data; let's not make mention, especially in your findings and intent.

- Page 3 add a new (bb) to read:

“(bb) Shark Finning – is defined as the taking of a shark, removing the fin or fins (whether or not including the tail) of a shark , and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea.”
- Page 3, Line 2 through 9, remove this section as it is not necessary to amend the definition of “take”.
- Page 3, Section 4 replaced to read:

“**Section 4.** A new Section 63114.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read:
§63114.1. Shark Finning.
(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to remove any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discard the carcass of the shark at sea;
(b) to have custody, control, or possession of any such fin without the corresponding carcass; or
(c) to land any such fin without the corresponding carcass;”
- Page 4, Section 5 replaced to read:

“**Section 5.** Section 63129 of Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read as follows:
§ 63129. Penalty.
Any person violating § 63104, § 63105, § 63106, § 63107, or §63108 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or by both. Any person violating § 63606.1, ~~or § 63606.2,~~ or §63114.1 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof may be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both. A violation of any other provision of this Article or its supporting regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), or by imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or

by both fine and imprisonment. In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components, equipment for their manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish products gathered through the use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles and vessels used for their transport shall be subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by the Governor under process issued by the Superior Court except that such seizure without such process may be made when the seizure is incidental to an arrest or a search pursuant to a search warrant, or as provided by §63128 of this Article.”

- Section 6, beginning on page 5, line 25 be removed.

Mr. Chairman, for the record, GOSA supports the ban on the practice of Shark Finning, however, we do not support Bill No. 44-31 – as written.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers, thank you for allow us the opportunity to provide our testimony on Bill No. 44-31 and we look forward to working together with the respective agencies, the members of the I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan, and the community.

Very respectfully,



THOMAS CAMACHO
President, GOSA



Guam Animals In Need, Inc.

P O Box 22365, Barrigada, GMF GU 96921

To learn more about Guam Animals In Need, please visit:

www.guamanimals.org/email guamanimals@yahoo.com

Dear Senator Cruz:

As the island of Guam's humane society we are writing to applaud your efforts to protect our island's sharks by introducing Bill No. 44-31, which prohibits the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts in Guam. The suffering endured by sharks subjected to finning is abhorrent, with animals being landed and finned while still alive, and then thrown back into the sea to endure horrible, slow deaths. With over 73 million sharks killed globally every year to satisfy the demand for shark fin soup, shark species are facing a dire future. The Pacific region is key to their survival.

Our friends in Hawai'i have passed legislation banning the possession and sale of shark fins, CNMI has introduced a similar bill and our neighbors in Palau have created a shark sanctuary in all their waters. We urge Guam to lead the Marianas region by doing the same! Sharks are critical components of the marine ecosystem, having existed as top predators for over 400 million years. Visitors to Guam come to dive with the sharks and the other diverse and rich marine life that exists because of sharks. We can't let this unique and valuable resource disappear.

In January President Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act into law, banning the removal and transfer of shark fins in U.S. waters. Your bill goes one step further by outlawing possession of fins and ray parts. Please take the next step and make all of Guam's waters a shark sanctuary by banning all commercial shark fishing.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bartels,
President
Guam Animals In Need

Kristie Leon Guerrero-5
February 1, 2011

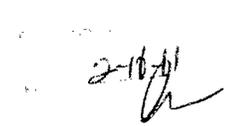
In favor of Bill 44-31 to prohibit the trading and shark fins and ray parts.

Sharks are one of the earliest marine animals to appear on this earth. From what I do know, sharks call dibs on our planet.

As children, we are told that sharks are dangerous or to stay away from them, but when you get older, you should see for yourself, they're friendly if you are. "Don't judge a book by its cover," they would say.

Today, statistics state that annually, sharks kill 6 humans. Most of these humanity deaths are normally by accident. Meaning, the sharks didn't want to kill them for food or anything else, but mainly out of defense or curiosity. They had probably gotten scared to the point where they went crazy and bit the live body, but most reports of a human dying from a shark had been not from the shark bite, but from the loss of blood. Statistics have also shown that annually, also, humans kill thousands and thousands of sharks. You see, we do it on purpose though, sometimes accidentally, (by-catch) but the odds are they've killed the sharks purposely, for many things, such as Shark-fin soup.

Shark fin soup is soup made from shark fin or manta ray, which gives the soup a gelatins feeling on the tongue, no taste, NOTHING. I could never understand why people love it so much. It has been known as a delicacy for china and some sort of luxurious right. Shark Finning, which is the chopping of find from a shark then throwing the body back into the ocean, to decay...needs to come to an end. Sharks have families, friends, and feelings. We, as humans, with hearts, have got to be considerate of that. Sharks are like humans at a certain extent, humans would be selfish to avoid this testimony.



My name is Jana Carriaga, and as a GWHS Guardian of the Reef, I feel I am obligated to state my opinion on the matter of banning shark-finning. This is my testimony. Sharks are amazing marine creatures. They've been around for over 400 million years. I think that's incredible. Sharks have survived five major extinctions. However, it is a shame that shark populations all over the world are decreasing rapidly due to the devastating act of shark-finning. **Therefore, I am in favor of passing Bill 44-31, the banning of trading and selling shark fins and ray parts.** There are many misconceptions about sharks. They are made seemingly more dangerous than they really are. When in reality, soda vending machines, influenza, and elephants kill more people each year than sharks do. We may fear sharks, but we can't live without them. They are to the ocean as us humans are to the Earth; because life on land depends on life in the ocean. We're losing many sharks, more specifically one shark every three seconds, mainly because of shark-finning, long-line fishing, and the greed of humans. Shark fins are very "valuable" and provide a gelatinous texture to soups. In some cultures, having shark-fin soup at your celebration gives you an ego boost, and it shows that you're of a high status. But hey, think about it, THIS IS GUAM. Eating and serving shark-fin soup is not part of our culture. We know that there are cheap substitutes for gelatinous texture than using a shark fin. I learned that some people are willing to pay \$10,000 just for one large shark fin. That's pure greed. Pretty soon, there aren't going to be any more sharks to kill for their fins. I'm sure you didn't know that if we lose sharks, we'll lose the oxygen we need to breathe. We need sharks to complete our cycle of life. Shark-finning does not have any real benefits. It has only provided us with unsustainable fisheries and a waste of resources. Shark populations have decreased by 90%. It may be impossible to recover that 90% without the help of banning shark-finning. We need sharks to maintain life all over the world. We all know that in order to maintain life, we need sustainability. So, let that linger in your mind. Think about our future and the future of the generations to come. So, let's join the CNMI and the sixteen countries that have already banned shark-finning. Thank you.

I am in favor of Bill 44-31 because it is the right thing to do to protect any and all species that are being killed for selfish reasons. Shark fining should be illegal because the reproduction stage of a shark takes years and the litters are so small that they don't reproduce at rapid rates like other species in the sea. I know that shark fin soup is a delicacy in China and other parts of Asia. But, realistically people have to give up their wants to protect the ecosystem and to prevent the extinction of sharks.

Shark fining is considered to be a form of animal cruelty, cutting of the fin and throwing back in the ocean to die should be considered a felony. The individuals that get caught with shark fining should be punished and sent to jail. This will send a message to the rest of the individuals that partake in shark fining and to the rest of the community.

By our community on this beautiful island of Guam doing our part to prevent the people from shark fining, we are one step closer to preserving a species and protecting our ecosystem. The more we educate the community and our neighboring islands about how important it is to preserve what natural resources we have left before they become extinct, the more aware they will be of the importance of our ecosystem and the laws created to prevent more sharks from being murdered for selfish reasons.

For these reasons I am in favor of Bill 44-31, for the betterment of the ecosystem and to prevent the extinction of sharks. Animals have rights too and it is our responsibility to have a policy in place to protect them, especially if their population is decreasing.

In favor of Bill 44-31 to prohibit the trading and selling of shark fins and ray parts.

Shark populations around the world are in serious decline. Some populations have been reduced by over 80% in the last 20 years. Much of the decline is due to the popularity of shark-fin soup in Asia. Sharks are a top predator in the ocean and necessary to maintain the balance of life in the sea. Hawaii has passed legislation to ban the possession of shark-fins beginning in July of this year. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has recently passed similar legislation. We, the undersigned, wish to further shark protection by banning the possession of shark-fins and ray-fins on Guam. We support Bill 44-31.

NAME	SIGNATURE	AGE	VILLAGE
Norbin Tiru	<i>Ntt</i>	12	Mangilao
Norriel Tiru	<i>Norriel</i>	14	Mangilao
Norberto Tiru	<i>Nnt</i>		Yigo
Rommel Mico	<i>R M</i>	17	Yigo
Darius Tolentino	<i>Darius Tolentino</i>	15	Barrigada
Nathaniel Sali	<i>N S</i>	17	Mangilao
Amber Tores	<i>Amber Tores</i>	15	Mangilao
Elizabeth PUCKETT	<i>E PUCKETT</i>	22	Chalan Pago
SWINGBY DOMAS	<i>Swingby Domas</i>	42	Mangilao
AURORA F. CABANGRO	<i>Aurora Cabangro</i>	64	TAMUNING
JONAH PADUA	<i>Jonah Padua</i>	31	Yigo
CORA Cayra da	<i>Cora Cayra da</i>	44	Mangilao
Walfredo Santa	<i>Walfredo Santa</i>	64	Dededo
Maria Buan	<i>Maria Buan</i>	70	Dededo
CATHERINE MARINCO	<i>Catherine Marincio</i>	63	Bangua
Mary Ann Garcia	<i>Mary Ann Garcia</i>	37	Yigo Dededo
FELYN LAYAGA	<i>Felyn Layaga</i>	39	Yigo
Grace Nuanda	<i>Grace Nuanda</i>	53	Mangilao
Rose Both	<i>Rose Both</i>	51	Yigo
Aunice Mendialca	<i>Aunice Mendialca</i>	40	Piti
KRISTIANI	<i>Kristiani</i>	15	Dededo
LORNA MORALES	<i>Lorna Morales</i>	56	GAFAR

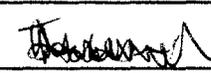
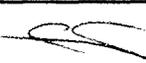
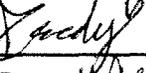
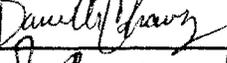
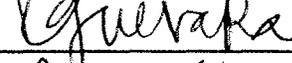
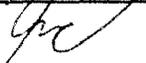
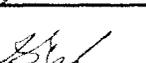
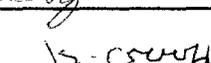
In favor of Bill 44-31 to prohibit the trading and selling of shark fins and ray parts.

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NAME	SIGNATURE	AGE	VILLAGE
Gwyn Hutchens	Gwyn Hutchens	17	Agana Heights
Tabitha L. Cruz	Tabitha Cruz	16	Chalan Pago.
Benediccion Sablan	Benediccion Sablan	29	YIGO
Brenda Tkau	Brenda Tkau	15	Mangilao
Edicia M. S. Torre	Edicia M. S. Torre	16	Sinajana
David Torre	David Torre	16	Mangilao
ROBERT CHAN	Robert Chan	15	Barrigada.
Reynark Cuenco	Reynark Cuenco	16	Little heights
Markie Porter	Markie Porter	17	Agana
Benjamin Torres Jr.	Benjamin Torres Jr.	15	Mangilao
Jared Castro	Jared Castro	15	Mangilao
Ayisha Villacorne	Ayisha Villacorne	14	Sinajana
Isiah Guichocho	Isiah Guichocho	14	TOTO
Albert Gay	Albert Gay	14	Sinajana
Brandon Igo	Brandon Igo	14	Barrigada
Leane Kaci	Leane Kaci	14	Barrigada
Krysta Jesus	Krysta Jesus	14	Chalan Pago
Tristan Pinaud	Tristan Pinaud	14	Chalan Pago
Shayne Kaci	Shayne Kaci	14	Barrigada
Darvin Sablan	Darvin Sablan	9	Mangitao
Michael Cepeda	Michael Cepeda	9	Chalan Pago
Shane Cruz	Shane Cruz	16	Chalan Pago.

In favor of Bill 44-31 to prohibit the trading and selling of shark fins and ray parts.

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NAME	SIGNATURE	AGE	VILLAGE
Terena McCord		15	Toto
Jordan Totous		16	Toto
Jana Guerrero		17	Yona
Ervin Seepcin		15	Chalan Pago
John Boero		15	Mangilao
Jacob Entsch		15	Mangilao
Jonathan Cruz	JC	16	Yona
Ceciano E.		16	Mangilao
Sared Correi		17	TOTO
Amanda Benavente		15	Barrigada
Danielle Chavez		16	Agaña Heights
Melisa Guenara		15	BARRIGADA
Julian Ada		17	Agaña Heights
Kevin Martinez		17	Famaring Barrigada
Devon Maluwelmerg		17	Mangilao
Greta Balmeo		15	Sinajana
Marlon Champaco		15	Mangilao
Shane-Anthony Cruz		16	Chalan Pago
Kaleb Cruz		16	Barrigada
Briannalee Pereda	BP	18	Mangilao
Vanessa Cruz		17	Mangilao
Deanna Aldan	D. Aldan	17	Mangilao

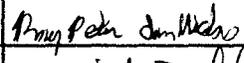
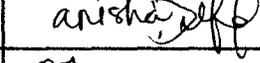
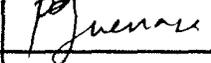
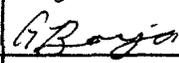
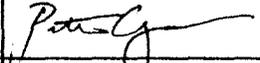
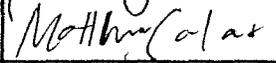
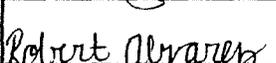
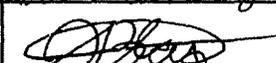
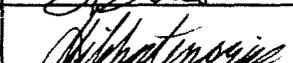
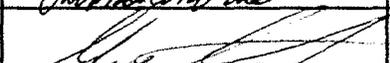
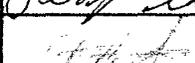
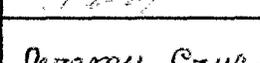
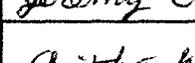
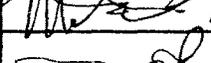
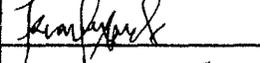
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NAME	SIGNATURE	AGE	VILLAGE
Daniel Afaisan	Daniel Afaisan	17	Agua Heights
Devin Maluwelmeny	Devin Maluwelmeny	16	Mangilao
Brandon Yoshida	Brandon Yoshida	16	Barrigada
ANTHONY IGNACIO	Anthony Ignacio	19	Barrigada
KEVIN ORTEGA	Kevin Ortega	16	1010
Joseph Jackson	Joseph Jackson	17	Pa'Gat
Bryan Paragas	Bryan M. Paragas	16	Mangilao
NORBERT CONCEPCION	Norbert Concepcion	16	Barrigada Heights
Michael Taitano	Michael Taitano	15	ordot.
ARAB BOIES	ARAB BOIES	30	Agua
Jeremy L-G	Jeremy L-G	16	Cholon Pajo!
Matt Skals	Matt Skals	16	Mangilao
Michael Quinata	Michael Quinata	16	YONA
Daniel Espinal	Daniel B. Espinal	16	Cholon Pajo
Sergio Otero	Sergio Otero	18	Barrigada
Jerome Castro	Jerome Castro	17	Singana
MAYLOVE M.	Maylove M.	16	ORDOT
Malone Clemente	Malone Clemente	16	Mangilao
Joey Ratten	Joey Ratten	16	TOTU
Jordan Ignacio	Jordan Ignacio	16	Barrigada
Michael Hoag ^{II}	Michael Hoag	16	Mong Mang
Dominic Casaromo	Raymond	16	Agat

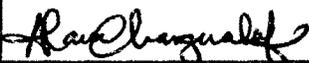
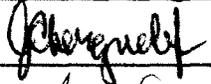
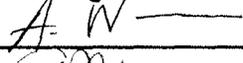
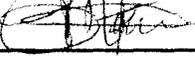
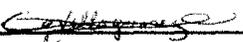
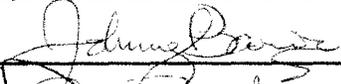
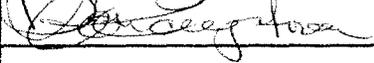
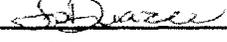
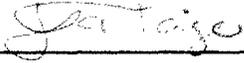
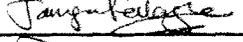
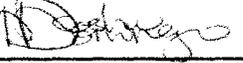
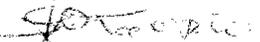
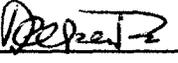
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Chelsey L.C. Ting		17	Mangilao
Ray Peter San Nicolas		17	Chalan Pago
Anisha M.F. Delfin		17	Chalan Pago
Rachel Guevara		17	Mangilao
Gerald Borgia		17	Barrigada
Peter Agnon		17	Chalan Pago
Math Salas		17	Little Heights
Robert Alvarez		17	Tiyan
Juan Blas		17	Barrigada
Mikko Tenorio		17	Agema Hts
Manns Santos		17	Barrigada
Daniel Inocencio		17	Ordot
Ulrica Roberto		20	Tiyan
Jeremy Cruz		16	Mangilao
Chris. Fernandez		17	Little Heights
ERIC ALL TAITAO		18	Chalan Pago
Mishaileen Mendiola		16	Barrigada
Madeleine Pombue		17	AGAT
Jepo Castro		17	Sinjano
Zachery Leonen		16	Ordot
Kaiana Leonen		14	Ordot
JUSTIAN TING		11	MANGILAO

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NAME	SIGNATURE	AGE	VILLAGE
Alana Charquialaf		16	Inarajan
Cassandra Charquialaf		40	Inarajan
ANDREY WESTFALL		26	MANGILAO
GINA MANTANONA		31	MALDILLOJ
Chauncey Villagomez		20	Maldilloj
Treena TORRES		37	Malogloj
Daena Banico		19	Malogloj
Johnny Banico		20	Malogloj
Dre Concepcion		22	Talofaf
JASON DIAZ		18	TALOFEO
JOSEPH TERLAJE		21	Inarajan
Tanya Terlaje		19	Inarajan
Meshae Domingo		18	Dededo
Danny Tedtento		41	Dededo
Marcus Muroz		32	Dededo
Jessie Torrico		27	Pantigayaca
Neeka Tareyama		30	Baniquelu

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Anne Padilla
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 2:23 AM, Anne Padilla <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Anne Padilla

Santa Fe, NM

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Mike Lidia [mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:54 AM
To: sem@guamlegislature.org; frank aguon; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Fwd: request for passage of bill #44-31

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anne Rasmussen <mudchick@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 31, 2011 at 8:48 AM
Subject: request for passage of bill #44-31
To: rorryforguam@gmail.com
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com

Dear Senator,

My name is Anne Rasmussen and I live in Phoenix, Arizona. It may seem odd that an artist living in the middle of a desert is asking you to pass a bill for the protection of sharks but it is my love of the oceans and all its creatures that informs my letter to you.

I am requesting that you pass bill number 44-31 with no amendments to ban the possession and sale of shark fins in Guam. There are numerous reasons to support this bill but I will point out only a few:

A) Sharks have been apex predators in the world's oceans for 400 million years. The elimination of apex predators from an ecosystem creates a vacuum that will be filled by prey animals that will then decimate its existing food source and this continues on down the food chain. Apex predators keep populations in check which in turn maintains a healthy and thriving ecosystem. Relieving the ocean of apex predators disturbs the balance maintained by equivalent populations throughout the food chain.

B) Dead coral does not attract tourism dollars. As a frequent scuba traveler with nearly 200 dives in over six countries I can tell you that divers and snorkelers don't want to travel to a place that has nothing to see, and we don't want to spend money in a place where we know the government doesn't care about maintaining their home and that of their constituents. Tourism is long term economics, shark finning is not. Once a shark is dead, there's no reaping more reward from it. I can also say as a diver that one of the most thrilling things to see is the beauty and strength of a shark swimming in the sea. Very few divers would disagree with me.

C) Shark finning is a cruel practice. Sharks are caught live, their fins cut off and the living bodies thrown back into the sea to die a slow and painful death. 70 million sharks die this way every year, only for their fins to be used in a soup that few Asians can actually afford to buy. Shark fin soup is a status symbol for the wealthy that harkens back to a time when fisherman truly risked their lives to bring in a shark that would feed their families. Now it is largely an industrialized process. Most people would consider such techniques exceedingly cruel and inhumane if applied to other food sources such as sheep, chickens, or cattle.

Senator, it is for these reasons and a dozen more I urge you to support bill number 44-31 with no amendments to cease the practice of shark finning in the beautiful waters of Guam.

Sincerely,
Anne Rasmussen

mudchick@gmail.com

--

www.westendpottery.com

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods;
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;
There is a society, where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but nature more...
--Lord Byron

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 3:29 AM

Subject: Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

To: roryforguam@gmail.com, fitial@yahoo.com

Cc: info@sharkdefenders.com, mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com

Honorable Rory J. Respicio

Majority Leader

Suite 302

155 Hesler St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

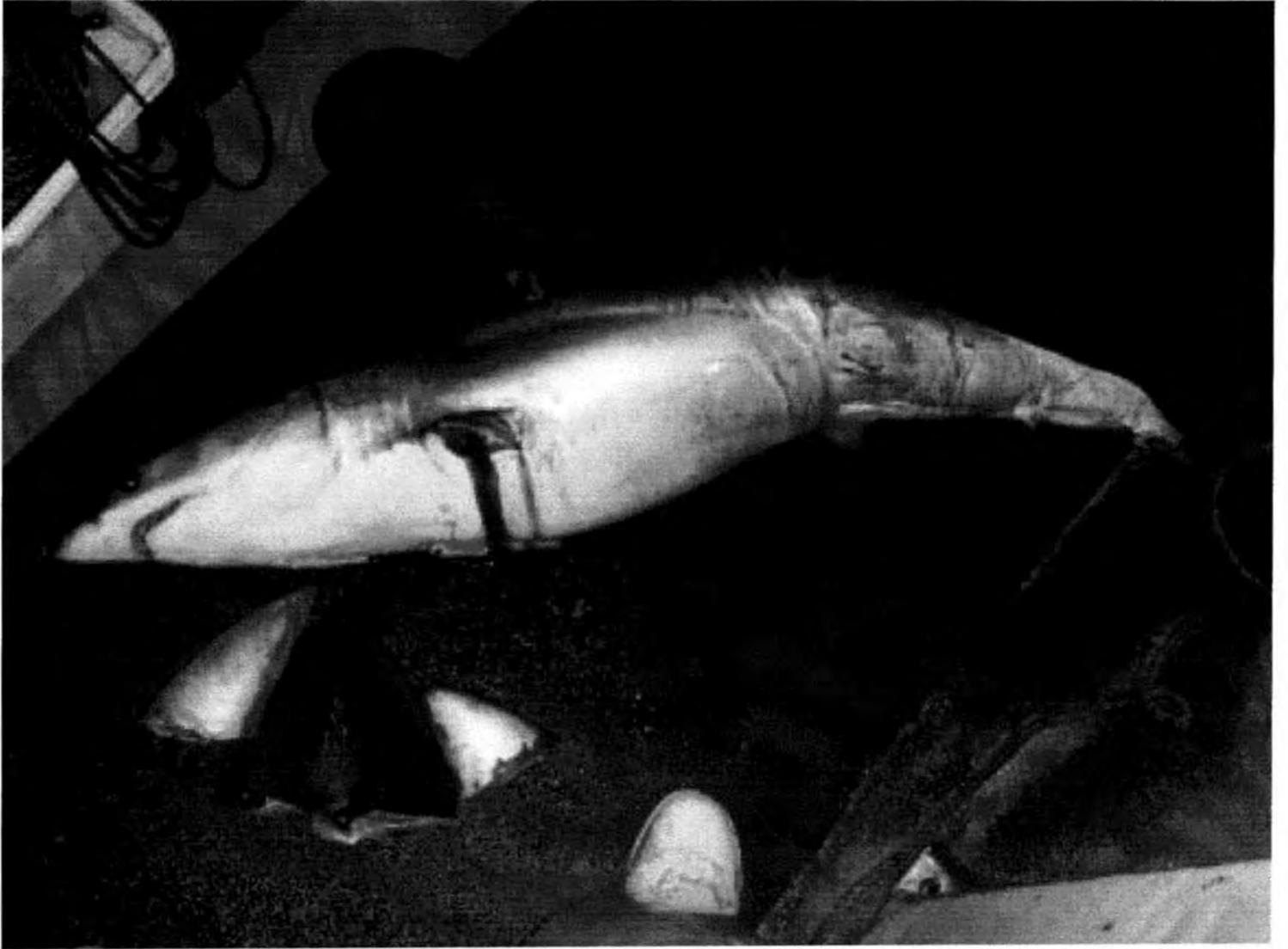
Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

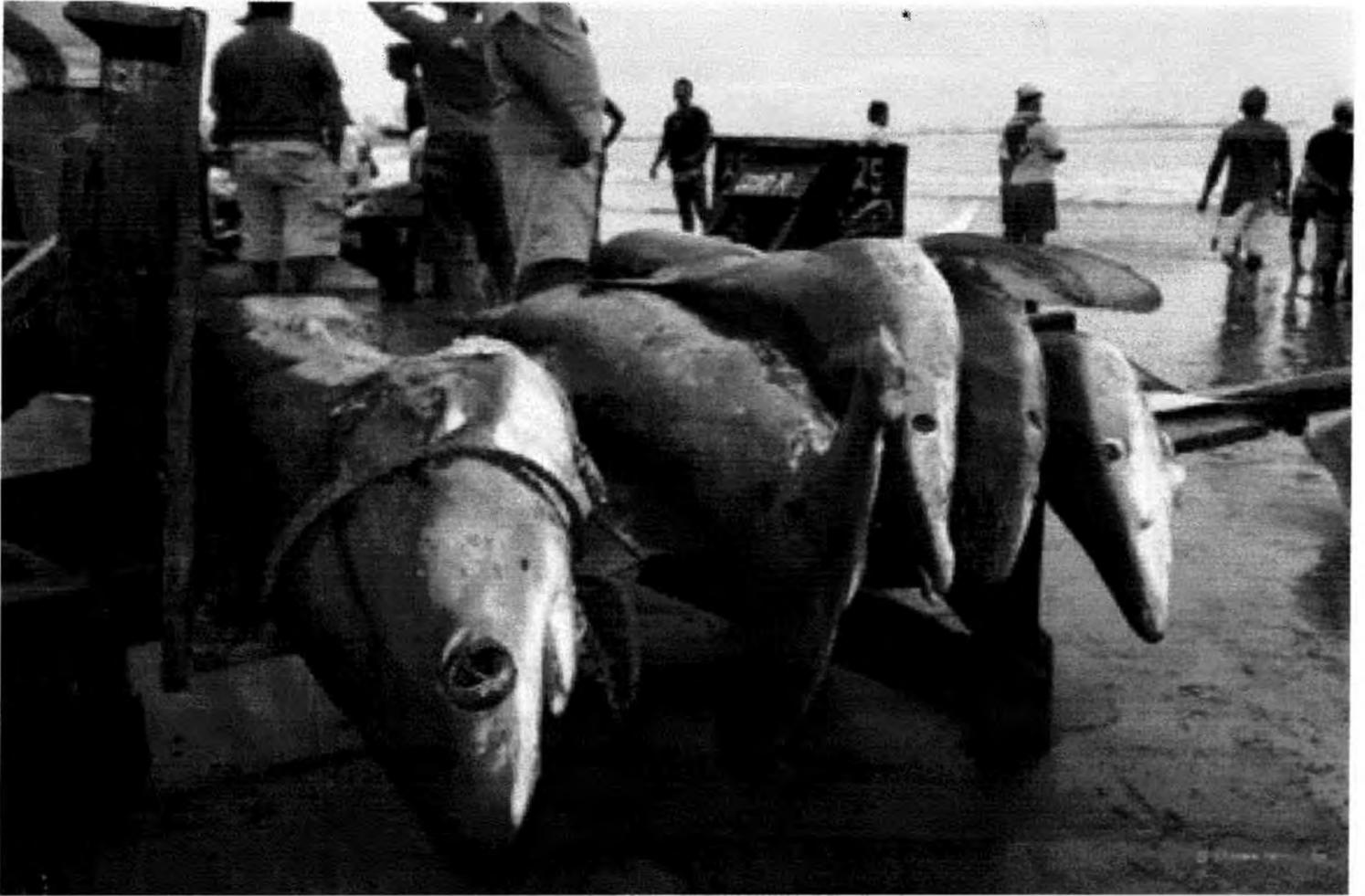
I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

Sincerely yours,

Chantal Buslot

Belgium (EU)











Honorable Rory J. Respicio

Majority Leader

Suite 302 155 Hesler St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 25, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam. Our names are Stephen Matadobra and Leigh Kroeger, residing on O'ahu, Hawaii. We are both students in marine science, divers and researchers.

The increasing pressures placed within the shark's environment could be significantly lessened. Both of us are immersed in shark and turtle conservation and understand the necessity of this ban to go into effect; further recovery initiatives would follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments. I have been to Guam multiple times as it is a location that is very memorable to my family. Not only was my sister born here but my parents met here. I learned how to scuba dive in Guam, which I can honestly say contributed to my degree in Marine Biology. We are seeing decreasing shark populations worldwide because of practices like shark finning. I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31, not only for the sharks, but for Guam itself to make an example in the Pacific that can be seen globally. We both one day hope to travel this world and one without sharks would be a travesty.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen M and Leigh K
O'ahu, Hawaii USA

01/25/10
WR

January 25, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

My name is Stacy Mursten and I live in Buffalo, New York. Shark Conservation is the most important thing in the world to me. Sharks are beautiful majestic, sentient creatures and they're also extremely vital to the health of our oceans, to our very planet, to us. It is impertinent that the slaughter of sharks comes to end before it's too late.

I want to thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam. As a beautiful Pacific Island surrounded by the treasures of the ocean every day, I am sure you'd want to do your part to protect the ocean's top predator that is now so threatened.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 without a second thought. Aside from the negative effects shark finning has on the environment, shark finning is cruel, inhumane, and wasteful. Now more than ever it is crucial to pass this Bill and I truly hope you do.

Sincerely,
Stacy Mursten
21 Sanders Rd
Buffalo, NY 14216



1/25/10

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 31, 2011

Dear Senator Respicio:

My name is Hilary Goodwin and work for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, DC. I have been scuba diving since I was 13 and I am passionate about shark conservation. I hope to visit Guam in the next five years to see your beautiful marine resources, especially sharks. I implore you to pass Bill 44-31 without any amendments. The brutal shark fin trade is extremely profitable and many countries are allowing foreigners to fish out the sharks in the ecosystem. Sharks are top predators and are crucial to maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem. Our oceans are stressed by multiple factors such as pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and overfishing. Removing sharks from the ecosystem has devastating consequences and Bill 44-31 would help protect the shark population around Guam from the brutal practice of shark finning.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goodwin

Darris B. Nelson
Post Office Box 577
Valley Ford CA 94972

January 25, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Bill No 44-31 Shark Fin ban

Dear Senator Respicio:

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, that will ban the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

I live on the Northern California coast and walk the beach several times a week. I am also a kayaker and just like thousands of people in this area I take special trips out just to witness sharks in their natural environment. I have a dream of visiting Guam and kayaking the beautiful waters someday in my future.

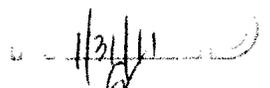
In my research I find that the demand for shark fin soup has driven uncontrollable over fishing of sharks. I understand that it is estimated that upwards of 73 million sharks are being killed in Hong Kong each year for the shark fin trade. Shark Fin Soup is the chief cause of the staggering decline in shark populations worldwide. One third of all pelagic sharks are threatened with extinction, and half of the shark species targeted by commercial fisheries are threatened. Many shark populations have declined dramatically over the past thirty years, some by as much as 99%.

I wholly support Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments. Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns.

Yours truly,



Darris B. Nelson



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: David Romportl
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:10 AM, David Romportl <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

David Romportl

St Louis Park, MN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.





Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 • www.awionline.org
 telephone: (202) 337-2332 • facsimile: (202) 446-2131

January 28, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Suite 302
 155 Hesler St.
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Fax: (671) 472-3547
 e-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com

SENT BY FAX AND EMAIL

Dear Senator Respicio:

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) submits the following testimony in support of Bill No. 44-31, which prohibits the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts in Guam. On behalf of AWI and its tens of thousands of members, many of whom value Guam as a tourist and diving destination, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you and Vice Speaker BJ Cruz for introducing this extremely important legislation.

As you know, shark species worldwide are highly vulnerable to overfishing and many species are facing extinction due to the high demand for their fins for the Asian delicacy shark fin soup. We commend you for your efforts to stop the inhumane practice of shark finning and to keep shark fins out of Guam. As you are likely aware, in addition to their fins, sharks are also sought after for their meat, liver, oil, teeth and cartilage. We encourage you to also ban the possession of these products in Guam as well. This would set an amazing precedent and would truly demonstrate Guam's commitment to shark conservation.

It's tragic to think that sharks have roamed the oceans for over 400 million years and we are now at risk of losing some of these amazing and biologically critical species forever. Shark safe havens throughout the world, where sharks can live and reproduce unmolested, are an absolute necessity for the species' future survival. We request that, in addition to a shark fin ban, you also follow the lead of Palau, Honduras and the Maldives and declare Guam's waters a shark sanctuary by banning all commercial shark fishing. The waters surrounding Guam contain a rich array of marine life, including sharks and rays, and this bill will help ensure that these animals are protected from such threats.

As you are aware, on January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Shark Conservation Act, which prohibits the removal and transfer of shark fins in U.S. waters. If

passed, your bill will join that of Hawai'i and CNMI in extending the protections of the federal law. Such a farsighted and progressive stance is to be commended.

We look forward to seeing this bill become law and offer our assistance in making this a reality.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Susan Millward
Executive Director

This legislation is particularly important to me having lived on Guam with my US Navy husband for two years in 2006-8. I learned to dive in Guam and gained an appreciation of sharks (including several very close encounters!) and the other unique wildlife there.

Please work to create a marine sanctuary for sharks and other sea creatures around the whole of Guam. What an example to the region that would be!

With much appreciation,





Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 • www.awionline.org
 telephone: (202) 337-2332 • facsimile: (202) 446-2131

January 28, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Suite 302
 155 Hesler St.
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Fax: (671) 472-3547
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With much appreciation,





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 telephone: (202) 337-2332 • facsimile: (202) 446-2131

January 28, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Suite 302
 155 Hesler St.
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Fax: (671) 472-3547
 e-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com

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Sincerely,



Susan Millward
Executive Director

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Please work to create a marine sanctuary for sharks and other sea creatures around the whole of Guam. What an example to the region that would be!

With much appreciation,





January 27, 2011

31st Legislature of Guam
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J.Respicio

RE: Bill 44-21 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Dear Members of the Guam Legislature,

On behalf of WildAid and its international membership I would like to encourage you in the strongest terms to support swift passage of the Bill 44-21.

I have personally studied the shark fin trade in 11 countries around the world, including working with Anderson Cooper's CNN Planet in Peril team in 2008. Everywhere it has been an unmitigated disaster for shark populations, to say nothing of the wanton cruelty and risk for consumers from mercury contamination.

Given the opportunity and potential of five tourism for the CNMI, and the importance of sharks not only as attraction to divers, but also as a key element in protecting your oceans resources, taking this step is of great importance. Rest assured your actions are being watched by other jurisdictions and your positive action would have repercussions in conserving our dwindling shark populations around the world.

I have worked extensively in China and other parts of Asia, where as the public becomes aware they are increasingly reducing their consumption of shark fin and indeed I have worked with Chinese icons, such as Yao Ming and Olympic athletes in their support of shark conservation and saying no to shark fin soup.

We hope that you will take the bold leadership necessary to help conserve these magnificent animals that have survived for so long in our oceans and stand ready to support you fully in these actions.

Sincerely,

Peter Knights
Executive Director
WildAid
www.wildaid.org

When the Buying Stops, the Killing Can Too

United States · United Kingdom · Canada · China · Ecuador · India · Indonesia

US 501(c)(3) 20-3644441

1/27/11

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

My name is Kinsey Hless and I am a college student in Colorado, USA. Sharks are my favorite animals, they are so beautiful and ancient. Please help protect them by signing this bill.

Thank you,

Kinsey Hless

RECEIVED

2/3/11 ✓

olivia

From: stephaniemendiola@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:35 PM
To: Olivia Palcios; Mary Maravilla
Subject: TESTIMONY, B44 - Fw: Bill No. 44-31

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

From: "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 15:35:57 +1000
To: Matt D<mmdchar@gmail.com>; <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Cc: BJ Cruz<senadotbjcruz@aol.com>; Stephanie Mendiola<stephaniemendiola@gmail.com>; Frank Aguon, III<frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31

Dear Mr. Durden,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

Majority Leader and Chairperson
Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Thirty-First Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

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From: Matt D <mmdchar@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 16:59:14 -0500
To: Rory Respicio <roryforquam@gmail.com>, <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Subject: Bill No. 44-31

The Honorable Vice Speaker BJ Cruz and the Honorable Majority Leader and Natural Resources Committee Chair Senator Rory Respicio,

I understand that each of you introduced Bill No. 44-31 earlier this month, which would prohibit the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts. I write today in support of the bill.

As you each know, shark species worldwide are highly vulnerable to overfishing and many species are facing extinction due to the high demand for their fins for the Asian delicacy shark fin soup. Guam is a paradise for sharks and the creation of safe havens for sharks is absolutely necessary for their future survival.

Good luck with the bill throughout the legislative process, and keep up the great work on behalf of wildlife! Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Matt Durden
Reston, Virginia

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:54 PM
To: mailto:markr@vidreps.com
Cc: Mike Lidia; Benjamin Cruz; Stephanie Mendiola; Frank Aguon, III; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments

Dear Mark Robinson:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

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From: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 07:24:51 +1000
To: Benjamin Cruz <senadotbjcruz@gmail.com>, Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, Stephanie Mendiola <sem@guamlegislature.org>, "Frank Aguon, III" <frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Robison** <markr@vidreps.com>
Date: Sat, Jan 29, 2011 at 2:26 AM
Subject: Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments
To: roryforguam@gmail.com
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com

Senator Respicio;

My name is Mark Robison and I live in Suwanee, Georgia. I am an avid scuba diver and a volunteer at the Georgia Aquarium here in Atlanta, GA.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in the matter of Bill 44-31. As an amateur marine biologist learning from some of the world's foremost researchers and scientists here, I am aware of the dramatic decline in certain key species of marine animals and the impact their decline has had on both marine and terrestrial ecosystems worldwide. If you have the time and inclination, much has been written concerning the phenomenon of "trophic cascades" – which occur when significant changes in the number of top predators in a food web cause shifts in all the lower trophic levels across a wide ecosystem. (see links, below.) One study in particular concluded that the decline of larger sharks in the Atlantic coastal region between NC and FL had an indirect but serious impact on the harvest of bay scallops in the region. The (oversimplified) conclusion was that the larger sharks had been keeping populations of skates and rays in-check, which in-turn feed on scallops and mollusks – when those checks were no longer in place, the population of the animals that naturally prey on scallops exploded with unexpected, but predictable results. While there was some debate about how much of the decline in the larger shark population was due to direct fishing vs. bycatch or attributable to other causes, there has been little doubt that as apex predators decline, reverberations are felt in surprising and sometimes unexpected ways.

One thing is not in doubt: shark fishing has grown beyond what is sustainable. Of the hundreds of shark species in the world's oceans, at least a third are known to be threatened or endangered and there is insufficient data to determine the status of more than half of all shark species. What we do know is this: sharks are slow-growing and slow to reach reproductive maturity. They produce very few young, and at the current harvest rate, there can be no doubt that they will continue to decline precipitously. By some estimates, more than 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins – a practice that is cruel and wasteful.

While I can appreciate the economic concerns of the fishing industry, one thing has been proven over time – when unsustainable harvesting practices are allowed to continue, our natural resources and the affected ecosystems are at risk. One of the major initiatives we are undertaking at the Georgia Aquarium, and at our sister organization, the Monterey Bay Aquarium is educating the public about making wise consumer choices for seafood that is harvested in a responsible, sustainable way. To that end, we are trying to make a difference by decreasing consumer demand for food items derived from certain marine species that are in decline due to slow reproductive rates and/or overfishing. While I don't speak for either of the organizations I mentioned – I am just a concerned individual with a deep love for the ocean and a desire to see healthy marine ecosystems persist – I hope you share my desire to set smart limits and make wise laws that help protect and preserve sharks and the marine environments where they are apex predators with a proven critical role.

By passing Bill 44-31 with no amendments, you will be making a positive step toward the supply-side of the equation. Without external, legal controls and protections, the slaughter will continue for economic reasons until there are too few left to harvest or until these species are extinct.

Thank you very sincerely for your concern and support!

Mark Robison

REF: "Trophic cascades across ecosystems", Tiffany M. Knight, Michael W. McCoy, Jonathan M. Chase, Krista A. McCoy & Robert D. Holt

Patterns and ecosystem consequences of shark declines in the ocean. Ferretti F, Worm B, Britten GL, Heithaus MR, Lotze HK.

Cascading top-down effects of changing oceanic predator abundances. Baum JK, Worm B.

Cascading Effects of the Loss of Apex Predatory Sharks from a Coastal Ocean," Ransom Myers

Mark Robison

President

Emerald Communications, Inc.

Manufacturer's Representatives

4122 Chattahoochee Trace

Suite 205

Duluth, GA 30097

770.992.3824 p

770.643.6952 f

770.330.8372 c

Reply to: markr@vidreps.com

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:00 PM
To: bernhardtteva@yahoo.fr
Cc: BJ Cruz; Mike Lidia; Stephanie Mendiola; Frank Aguon, III; Olivia Palacios; Mary Maravilla
Subject: Re: TRES TRES IMPORTANT-reply

Dear Bernhardt Eva:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

Majority Leader and Chairperson
Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Thirty-First Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

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From: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 07:22:29 +1000
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, Stephanie Mendiola <sem@guamlegislature.org>, "Frank Aguon, III" <frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: TRES TRES IMPORTANT

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **bernhardt eva** <bernhardteva@yahoo.fr>
Date: Sat, Jan 29, 2011 at 12:06 AM
Subject: TRES TRES IMPORTANT
To: roryforguam@gmail.com
Cc: fitial@yahoo.com

mme VIER Eva
6,rue Julien Iacroy
75020-PARIS
FRANCE

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

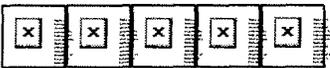
Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

Sincerely yours,



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:52 PM
To: mailto:nancy.petitjean@skynet.be
Cc: Benjamin Cruz; Mike Lidia; Stephanie Mendiola; Frank Aguon, III; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: important message

Dear **Nancy Petitjean**,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

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From: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 07:25:42 +1000
To: Benjamin Cruz <senadotbjcruz@gmail.com>, Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, Stephanie Mendiola <sem@guamlegislature.org>, "Frank Aguon, III" <frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: important message

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Petitjean** <nancy.petitjean@skynet.be>
Date: Sat, Jan 29, 2011 at 5:21 AM
Subject: important message
To: roryforguam@gmail.com, fitial@yahoo.com



Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Petitjean Liège Belgique EU



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Jose Luis Rodriguez
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support for Bill 44-31 with no ammendments

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 7:14 AM, Jose Luis Rodriguez <sharkazoid18@hotmail.com> wrote:

My name is Jose Luis Rodriguez and I live in the USA. Currently I am a student in college studying Evolutionary, Ecological, and Organismal Biology, with hopes in attaining a job in ecological and organismal conservation. I am writing to you in support of passing Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

One of the main reasons that Shark fining should be banned is because of how the finned shark's bodies are being disposed of. Once the fins have been harvested, the remaining body of the shark is tossed overboard in which they die because they are no longer able to swim and breathe. Once the dead shark bodies start to decompose, the pH of the ocean will rise, thus becoming more acidic.

If the ocean becomes acidic, individual microenvironments will start to die off, thus adding the raising of acidity in the ocean. These acidic water will then evaporate into the atmosphere. Once the evaporated waters have condensed, precipitation and rainfall will occur. These rainfalls are acidic in nature and thus "acid rain" will fall on land, with the possibility of destroying agricultural crops, thus reducing the amount of food available for consumption. This will cripple economies and humans will also suffer from Shark populations diminishing.

Below are further reasons, supporting the passing of Bill 44-31 with no amendments:

- Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 million years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

- Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.
- **The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade.** Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!
- Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!
- The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.
- Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

Thank you,

Jose Luis Rodriguez

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:06 PM
To: Mariko Terasaki
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Benjamin Cruz; Stephanie Mendiola; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: in support of Bill No. 44-31

Dear Mariko Terasaki:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

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From: Mariko Terasaki <mterasa1@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 15:24:23 -0500
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Subject: in support of Bill No. 44-31

Honorable Rory J. Respicio:

I am writing in support of the Bill No.44-31 that was introduced to prohibit the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts. I have heard amazing things about Guam and have wanted to visit for many years. I hope that this visit will be possible soon. Of course, I am much more likely to visit Guam knowing that it is a place that protects and cherishes wildlife. Sharks are currently threatened to the highest degree, and it is my hope that this bill will be passed without amendments that weaken the protection for sharks and rays.

All the best,
Mariko Terasaki

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 1:21 PM
To: Ana Rumbak
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

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On Sun, Jan 30, 2011 at 2:01 AM, Ana Rumbak <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the

water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Ana Rumbak
Zagreb, Croatia

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: JFM; fitial@yahoo.com
Cc: info@sharkdefenders.com; mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Benjamin Cruz; Mike Lidia; Stephanie Mendiola; Mary Maravilla; Frank Aguon, III; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Dear Senator Respicio

Dear Jean-Frédéric Marrot:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

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From: JFM <anjeh@wanadoo.fr>
Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 07:56:46 +0100
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, <fitial@yahoo.com>
Cc: <info@sharkdefenders.com>, <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Subject: Dear Senator Respicio

v\:* { BEHAVIOR: url (#default#vml) } v\:* { BEHAVIOR: url (#default#vml) }

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

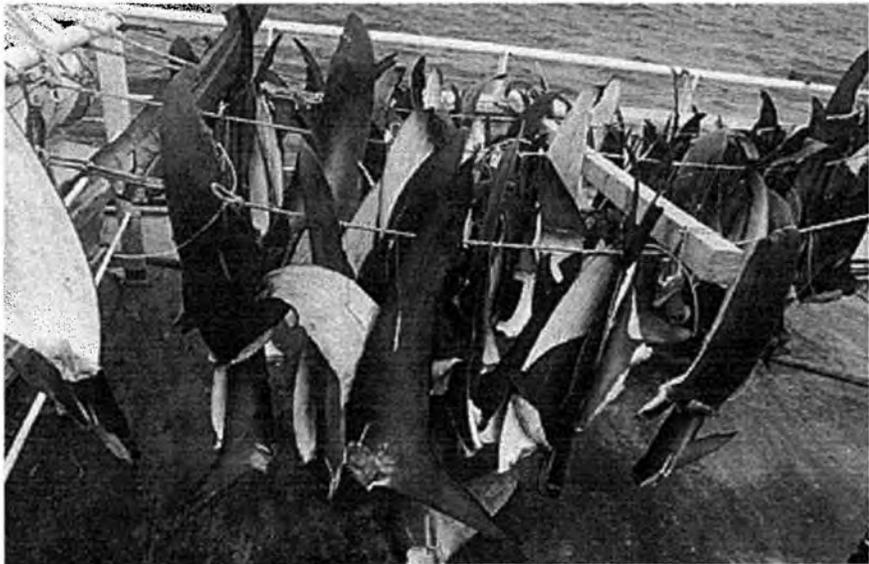
Sincerely yours,

Jean-Frédéric Marrot

Marseilles

France







olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:31 AM
To: carl safina
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Ban shark finning, bill number 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 8:02 AM, carl safina <csafina@blueocean.org> wrote:

I write in support of the bill to ban shark finning, bill number 44-31.

Thank you,

CS

Carl Safina, PhD (President)
Blue Ocean Institute
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY 11794
Cell 631-838-8368 Office: 631-659-3746 Fax: 631-659-3750
csafina@blueocean.org www.blueocean.org www.carlsafina.org
Also on Facebook and Twitter

Books:

- A Sea In Flames; Inside the *Deepwater Horizon* oil blowout (due April 2011)
- The View From Lazy Point; A Natural Year in an Unnatural World (due Jan 2011; winner, Guggenheim Fellowship, starred by Kirkus Reviews and Booklist.)
- Nina Delmar and the Great Whale Rescue (for children)
- Voyage of the Turtle (New York Times Editors' Choice; starred by Booklist and Publishers' Weekly)
- Eye of the Albatross (Winner, John Burroughs Medal; National Academies' Science Communication Award)
- Song for the Blue Ocean (Winner, Lannan Award for Literature; New York Times Editors' Choice; MacArthur Fellowship)

“Science is recorded in measurements and data and described by formulas. But the link between the scientific world and society at large is made with words.”

—Nancy Bazilchuk

olivia

From: Mike Lidia [mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:59 PM
To: sem@guamlegislature.org; frank aguon; Olivia Palacios; Mary Maravilla
Subject: Fwd: A request to "please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments".

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Aquaadv@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 31, 2011 at 1:18 PM
Subject: A request to "please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments".
To: roryforguam@gmail.com
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 25, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

I have been diving the worlds oceans for over 33 years with over 5,000 logged dives. The lose of the sharks as a apex predator is something that has noticably changed our underwater environment for the worse. Here is your chance to make a difference, Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

Thanks for your help
Britt Ross

Underwater Photographer and World Wide Underwater Expedition Leader for 30 plus Years.

- **Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.**
 - **Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.**
 - **The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade. Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!**

- **Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!**
- **The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.**
- **Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!**

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 1:20 PM
To: cathala corine
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

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Senator

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On Sun, Jan 30, 2011 at 1:51 AM, cathala corine <mail@change.org> wrote:
Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the

water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

cathala corine
Pierrelatte, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:59 PM
To: colin sztronga
Cc: Benjamin Cruz
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

From: colin sztronga <mail@change.org>
Reply-To: colin sztronga <colin.sztronga@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 14:40:50 -0800
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Subject: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

colin sztronga
Ajax, Canada

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:18 PM
To: Josette Roux; fitial@yahoo.com
Cc: Benjamin Cruz; Mike Lidia; Stephanie Mendiola; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios; Frank Aguon, III
Subject: Re: banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Dear Josette Roux:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Fax: (671) 472-3547

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From: Josette Roux <joemi.roux@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 10:40:28 +0100
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, <fitial@yahoo.com>
Subject: banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

Sincerely yours,

Mrs ROUX Josette

13011Marseille

France

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Jeff van der Hulst
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Bill 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 8:11 AM, Jeff van der Hulst <diveokidoki@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio:

I would kindly but urgently request if you could pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments, my reasons are listed below:

- Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.
- **The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade.** Sharks formerly caught as by catch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!
- Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!

- The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.
- Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

We are living in the United Kingdom but we find this request an urgent matter as it affects the entire marine ecosystem, not only in Guam but the whole South Pacific Ocean.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffry van der Hulst and Fely Woods

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Susan Sinotte
Cc: Benjamin Cruz
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Susan Sinotte,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

From: Susan Sinotte <mail@change.org>
Reply-To: Susan Sinotte <Sinotte.S@shaw.ca>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 14:41:48 -0800
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Subject: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Susan Sinotte
Kelowna, BC, Canada

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/view/support bill no 44-31 to end the shark fin trade in guam](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/support%20bill%20no%2044-31%20to%20end%20the%20shark%20fin%20trade%20in%20guam). To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:09 PM
To: Serda Ozbenian
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Benjamin Cruz; Stephanie Mendiola; Mary Maravilla; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: testimony on Bill No. 44-31, shark fins

Dear Serda Ozbenian:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill¹'s co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean¹'s ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature¹'s Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

Majority Leader and Chairperson
Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan Thirty-First Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

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On 1/29/11 6:11 AM, "Serda Ozbenian" <serda.ozbenian@gmail.com> wrote:

>Honorable Rory J. Respicio
>Majority Leader
>Suite 302
>155 Hesler St.
>Hagåtña, Guam 96910
>
>Dear Senator Respicio:
>
>I am writing to express my support for Bill No. 44-31. Thank you for
>introducing the bill and for your efforts to protect sharks. I am a
>strong believer that sharks are vital members of the ocean ecosystem.

>Without them, other marine life will start to disappear.

>

>As a shark advocate, I am appalled at the precarious state of shark

>populations and fear that many shark species will be lost for good if

>nations don't protect their own waters, prohibiting finning and

>overfishing. Although Bill No. 44-31 is strong and mirrors the strong

>law that passed in Hawaii, I respectfully request that Guam also

>includes a ban on commercial shark fishing in the waters of Guam.

>This is absolutely necessary to truly protect shark species that visit

>Guam's waters from overfishing and illegal finning. Please make Guam a

>shark sanctuary by banning all shark products and commercial shark

>fishing!

>

>Thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of sharks!

>

>Sincerely,

>

>Serda Ozbenian ,

>Takoma Park, MD

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:53 PM
To: Sydney Chamberlain
Cc: Benjamin Cruz
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Sydney Chamberlain,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

From: Sydney Chamberlain <mail@change.org>
Reply-To: Sydney Chamberlain <dog10crazy@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 14:42:05 -0800
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Subject: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Sydney Chamberlain
alamosa, CO

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill no 44-31 to end the shark fin trade in guam](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam). To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 31, 2011

Dear Senator Respicio:

My name is Hilary Goodwin and work for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, DC. I have been scuba diving since I was 13 and I am passionate about shark conservation. I hope to visit Guam in the next five years to see your beautiful marine resources, especially sharks. I implore you to pass Bill 44-31 without any amendments. The brutal shark fin trade is extremely profitable and many countries are allowing foreigners to fish out the sharks in the ecosystem. Sharks are top predators and are crucial to maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem. Our oceans are stressed by multiple factors such as pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and overfishing. Removing sharks from the ecosystem has devastating consequences and Bill 44-31 would help protect the shark population around Guam from the brutal practice of shark finning.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goodwin

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 4:08 PM
To: Susan Millward
Cc: Benjamin Cruz; Mike Lidia; Olivia Palacios; Stephanie Mendiola; Mary Maravilla
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31 Shark Finning

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Susan Millward:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

Majority Leader and Chairperson
Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan Thirty-First Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
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On 1/29/11 6:17 AM, "Susan Millward" <susan@awionline.org> wrote:

>Dear Mr. Respicio,
>
>Please see attached letter in support of your proposed legislation.
>
>
>Susan Millward
>Executive Director
>Animal Welfare Institute
>900 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.

>Washington D.C. 20003

>Tel: 202-446-2123

>Fax: 202-446-2131

>www.awionline.org

>

>

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:58 PM
To: GRO OTtesen
Cc: Benjamin Cruz
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

From: GRO OTtesen <mail@change.org>
Reply-To: GRO OTtesen <Gro.ottesen55@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 14:41:17 -0800
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Subject: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

GRO OTtesen
Stavanger, NV

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:39 AM
To: Chase Gentry
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:12 AM, Chase Gentry <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Chase Gentry
Old Hickory, TN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 3:29 AM

Subject: Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

To: roryforguam@gmail.com, fitial@yahoo.com

Cc: info@sharkdefenders.com, mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com

Honorable Rory J. Respicio

Majority Leader

Suite 302

155 Hesler St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

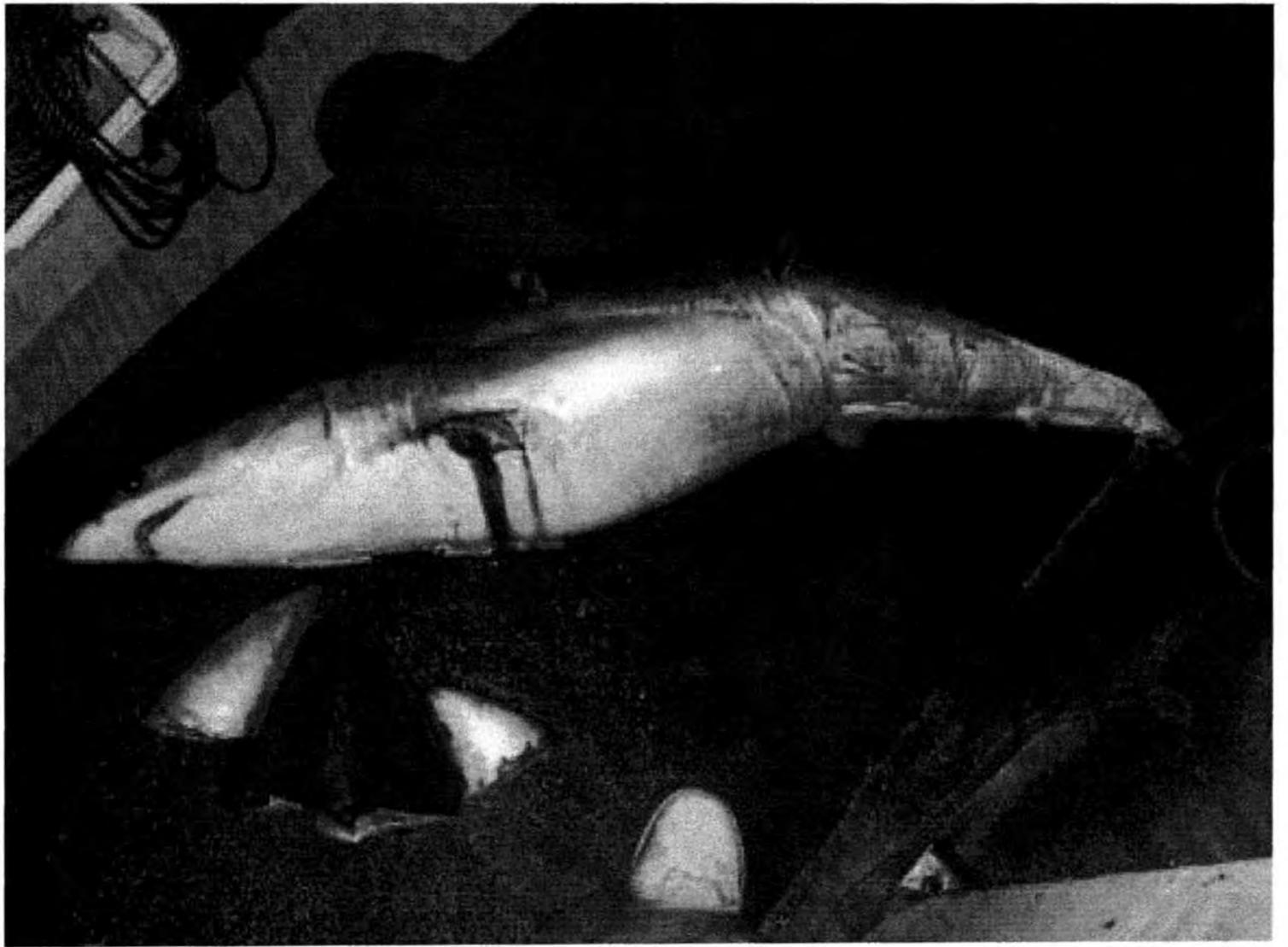
Your shark fin ban is visionary and serves as a model for many countries to follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments..

Sincerely yours,

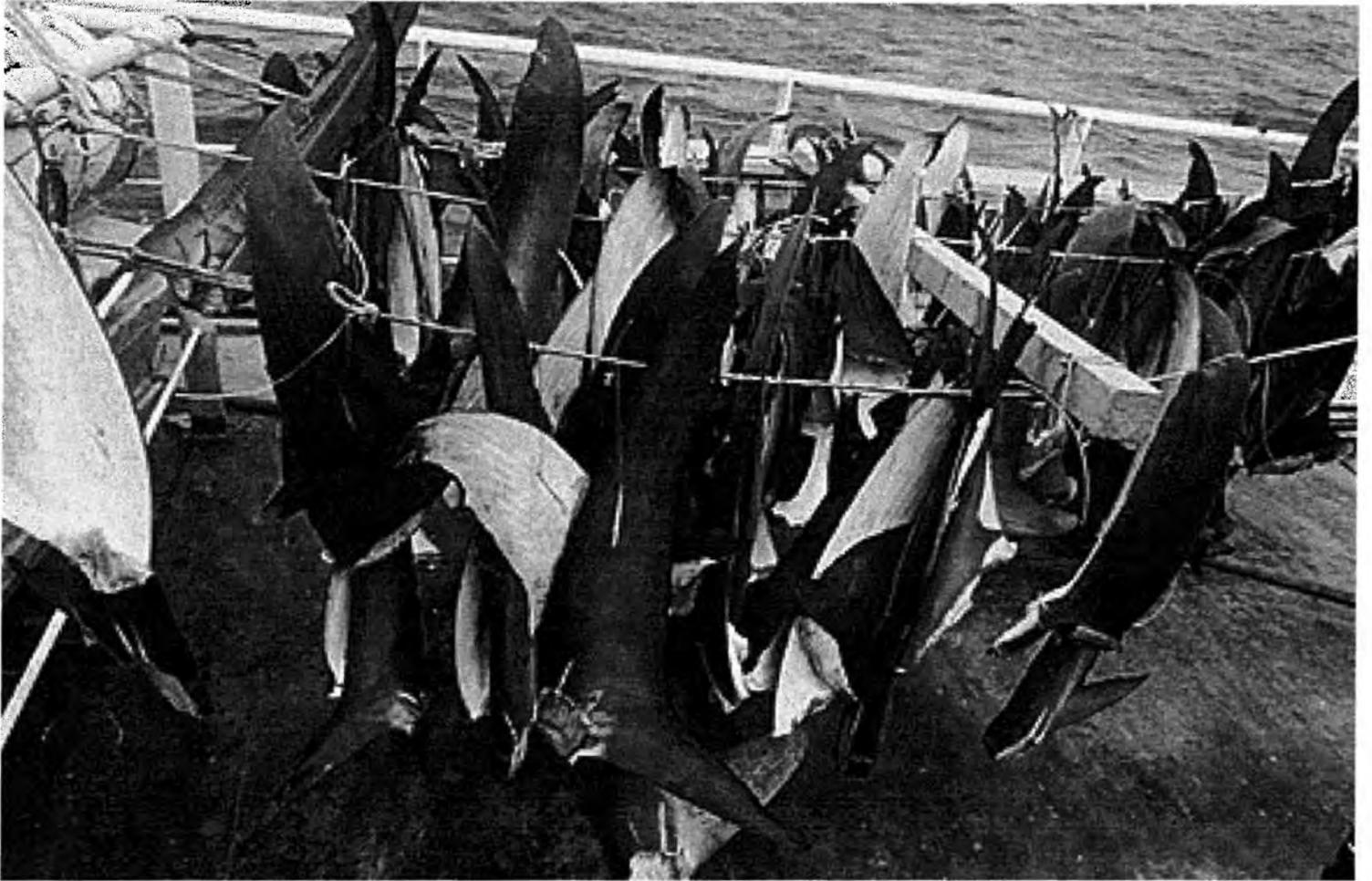
Chantal Buslot

Belgium (EU)













January 27, 2011

31st Legislature of Guam
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio

RE: Bill 44-21 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Dear Members of the Guam Legislature,

On behalf of WildAid and its international membership I would like to encourage you in the strongest terms to support swift passage of the Bill 44-21.

I have personally studied the shark fin trade in 11 countries around the world, including working with Anderson Cooper's CNN Planet in Peril team in 2008. Everywhere it has been an unmitigated disaster for shark populations, to say nothing of the wanton cruelty and risk for consumers from mercury contamination.

Given the opportunity and potential of five tourism for the CNMI, and the importance of sharks not only as attraction to divers, but also as a key element in protecting your oceans resources, taking this step is of great importance. Rest assured your actions are being watched by other jurisdictions and your positive action would have repercussions in conserving our dwindling shark populations around the world.

I have worked extensively in China and other parts of Asia, where as the public becomes aware they are increasingly reducing their consumption of shark fin and indeed I have worked with Chinese icons, such as Yao Ming and Olympic athletes in their support of shark conservation and saying no to shark fin soup.

We hope that you will take the bold leadership necessary to help conserve these magnificent animals that have survived for so long in our oceans and stand ready to support you fully in these actions.

Sincerely,

Peter Knights
Executive Director
WildAid
www.wildaid.org

When the Buying Stops, the Killing Can Too

United States · United Kingdom · Canada · China · Ecuador · India · Indonesia

US 501(c)(3) 20-3644441

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:58 PM
To: GRO OTtesen
Cc: Benjamin Cruz
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Follow Up Flag Status: Follow up
Flagged

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

From: GRO OTtesen <mail@change.org>
Reply-To: GRO OTtesen <Gro.ottesen55@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 14:41:17 -0800
To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Subject: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The current Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not hurt local fisheries as some think.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 12:48 AM

Subject: importance of sharks to fisheries

To: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, Angelo Villagomez <angelovillagomez@gmail.com>, Shawn Heinrichs <shawn.heinrichs@bluespheremedia.com>, Mary O'Malley <maryomalley@mac.com>, Carlotta Leon Guerrero <carlottaguam@yahoo.com>, Peter Knights <knights@wildaid.org>, Matt Rand <mrand@pewtrusts.org>

Mike,

See attached a document and below a link to a video that addresses arguments why sharks are important for a healthy ocean ecosystem, and why the vitality of fishing grounds is directly related to the abundance of sharks.

Therefore, every fisherman that can see the big picture and that has an interest in preserving resources for the future, (rather than see only the short term gain of next months catch), will see that the protection of sharks is of the highest priority for the fishing community.

“Predators as Prey” Why Healthy Oceans need sharks

page 6 explains how a healthy reef system consists of more than 50 % of Apex predators (sharks)

And it points out that typically over fished ecosystems are lacking sharks

(Guam and the CNMI are unfortunately an example of that)

I highly recommend watching this 15-minute presentation

Enric Sala: Glimpses of a pristine ocean

A healthy coral reef stores 85% of its biomass in the form of sharks.

<http://arcsecond.wordpress.com/2010/05/18/coral-reefs-are-85-shark/>

Predators *as* Prey

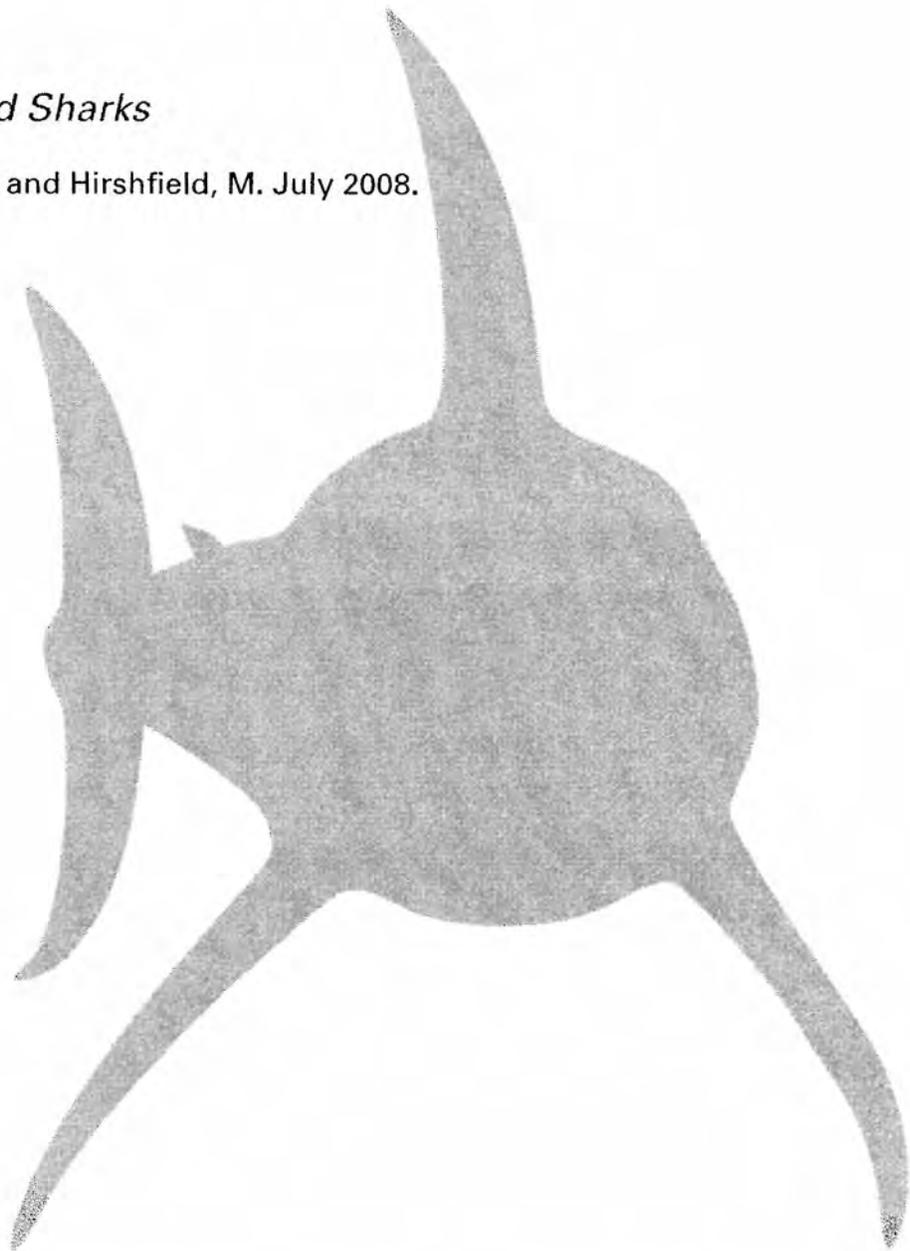
Why Healthy Oceans Need Sharks

Photo © Rob Stewart/ Sharkwater

 OCEANA
www.oceana.org

Predators as Prey:
Why Healthy Oceans Need Sharks

Griffin, E., Miller, K.L., Freitas, B. and Hirshfield, M. July 2008.



OCEANA

1350 Connecticut Ave. NW, 5th Floor | Washington, DC 20036 USA
T +1.202.833.3900 | F +1.202.833.2070 | www.oceana.org

Sharks have been swimming the world's oceans for more than 400 million years – 100 million years before the first dinosaurs appeared on land. But today, shark populations are being decimated by commercial fishing, putting some species in danger of extinction.

Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry stereotype society has created for them. However, what the world should really fear is a world without sharks. Each year, humans kill more than 100 million sharks worldwide. This includes the tens of millions of sharks



Photo © Rob Stewart/ Sharkwater

that are caught annually for their fins, which are one of the world's most expensive seafood products.

As top predators, sharks help to manage healthy ocean ecosystems. And as the number of large

sharks declines, the oceans will suffer unpredictable and devastating consequences. Sharks help maintain the health of ocean ecosystems, including seagrass beds and coral reefs. Healthy oceans undoubtedly depend on sharks.



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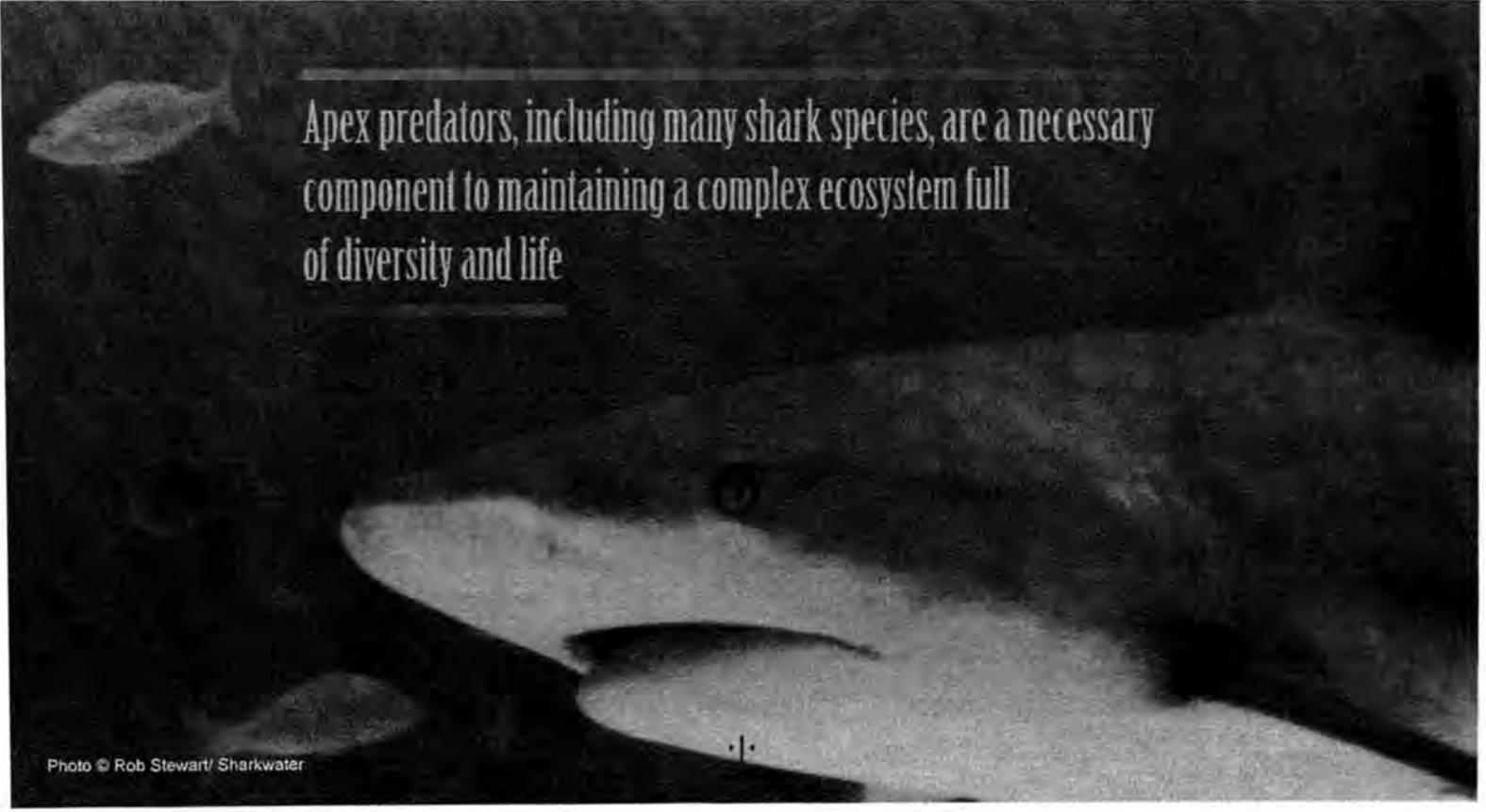
The Importance of Apex Predators to Healthy Ecosystems

Sharks are often the “apex” or top predators in their ecosystems because they have few natural predators. As apex predators, sharks feed on the animals below them in the food web, helping to regulate and maintain the balance of marine ecosystems. Apex predators directly limit the populations of their prey, which in turn affects the prey species of those animals, and so on.¹ The diets of most top predators are quite varied. This allows top predators to switch prey species when certain populations are low, thereby allowing prey species to persist.^{2,3}

Apex predators not only affect population dynamics by consuming prey, but they also can control the spatial distribution of potential prey through intimidation. Fear of shark predation causes some species to alter their habitat use and activity level, leading to shifts in abundance in lower trophic levels.⁴ Top predators affect other animals in a cascade effect throughout the ecosystem, ultimately influencing community structure.⁵

By preventing one species from monopolizing a limited resource, predators increase the species diversity of the ecosystem. To put it simply, more predators lead to greater diversity.⁶ Comparisons of areas with and without apex predators show that apex predators provide greater biodiversity and higher densities of individuals, while areas without apex predators experience species absences.⁷ Without apex predators there is the potential for unchecked predation by other lower predatory species, overeating of vegetation by herbivorous prey species and increased competition that ultimately affects the species richness and abundance within the system.⁸ Apex predators, including many shark species, are a necessary component to maintaining a complex ecosystem full of diversity and life.

In addition to regulating species abundance, distribution and diversity, top predators provide essential food sources for scavengers⁹ and remove the sick and weak individuals from prey populations.¹⁰



Apex predators, including many shark species, are a necessary component to maintaining a complex ecosystem full of diversity and life

The Hawaiian Islands, An Example of a Balanced Marine Ecosystem

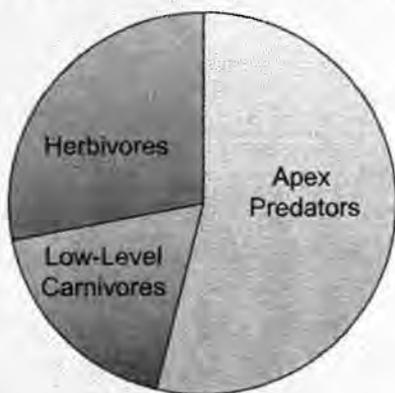
There are very few, if any, pristine locations left in the ocean that are untouched by human activities, especially by the impacts of fishing. Even the most remote locations of the world, such as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), are not free from human interference. However, studying these locations may yield the best possible insight into the structure and natural functioning of unaltered ecosystems. Recent surveys conducted in the central Pacific off the coasts of the NWHI and Palmyra have provided comparisons to the ecosystems of the nearby inhabited Christmas and Fanning Islands and the heavily populated main Hawaiian Islands (MHI).^{11,12}

In these surveys, researchers observed a larger number of fish surrounding the uninhabited islands, with a drastically different composition of species. Most surprising was the fact that apex predators accounted for over half the fish biomass surrounding Palmyra and the NWHI, while the apex predators at Christmas, Fanning and the MHI were less than 10 percent of the fish biomass.^{13,14} In addition, the apex predators, such as sharks, were larger in the waters surrounding the uninhabited islands.¹⁵

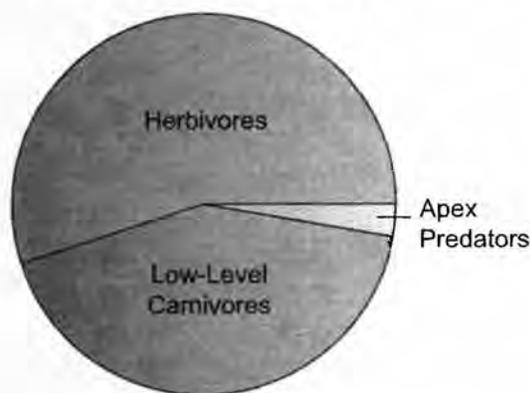
Locations with greater apex predator biomass also had a higher biomass of herbivorous fish, which support the general hypothesis that a coral reef ecosystem with many apex predators also will have many herbivorous fish.¹⁶ Notably, most of the dominant predators found in the NWHI were rare or absent in the MHI.¹⁷ These studies illustrate that a typical trophic pyramid for an unfished coral reef is actually inverted, meaning that most of the fish biomass is at the top levels. It also shows that typical overfished ecosystems are lacking apex predators.¹⁸

Figure 1: Comparison of Trophic Structure Between the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Main Hawaiian Islands Based on Biomass¹⁹

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands



Main Hawaiian Islands



Typical overfished ecosystems are lacking their apex predators

Sharks: Jinxed by “Jaws”

Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry stereotype society has created for them. We consider this the “Jaws” image. However in reality, sharks are some of the world’s most misunderstood animals. There are more than 350 distinct species of sharks that vary in size, diet and habitat, but the vast majority are harmless to humans. In fact, nearly two-thirds of all shark attacks involve just three species— white, tiger and bull.

The reality is that humans are the true top predators of the sea, killing more than 100 million sharks each year in fisheries,²⁰ while sharks mistakenly kill between five and 15 people during that same period.²¹ Scientists estimate that fishing has reduced large predatory fish populations worldwide by 90 percent over the past 50 to 100 years.²² Sharks now represent the largest group of threatened marine species on the World Conservation Union’s (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.²³ Yet only three of the 350 shark species — basking, whale and white — are protected from the pressures of international trade. The remaining species are ignored or seen as low priorities despite their vulnerability to overfishing²⁴ and their important role in their ecosystems.

Shark Finning

The practice of shark finning kills 26 to 73 million sharks each year for their fins.²⁵ Once reserved as a delicacy and a sign of prestige in Asian cultures, shark fin soup consumption is on the rise. Because a bowl of soup can cost up to \$100, the fins are the most economically valuable part of a shark. And since shark carcasses are bulky, take up space and are worth less money, the practice of removing the fins and throwing the bleeding carcasses overboard is far too common. This practice, known as “shark finning,” only uses between one and five percent of the shark. Furthermore, without the bodies, it is nearly impossible for fisheries managers and scientists to accurately identify the species and determine the number of sharks that are being killed.

Humans kill more than 100 million sharks each year



Photo © Oceana/LX

Bycatch

Some fisheries directly target sharks as their intended catch, but other fisheries capture sharks incidentally as “bycatch”, a term used for unintended catch. Unwanted sharks are then thrown overboard, with many of them left dead or injured. Trawl fisheries are responsible for the largest bycatch numbers in coastal areas, while longlines capture the majority of sharks as bycatch on the high seas.²⁶ It is estimated that tens of millions of sharks are caught as bycatch each year, which is nearly half of the total shark catch worldwide.²⁷ These startling numbers demonstrate the extreme threat that commercial fisheries pose to the survival of these top predators. Remarkably, bycatch estimates fail to appear in most fishery statistics, resulting in the continued mismanagement of shark bycatch.^{28, 29}

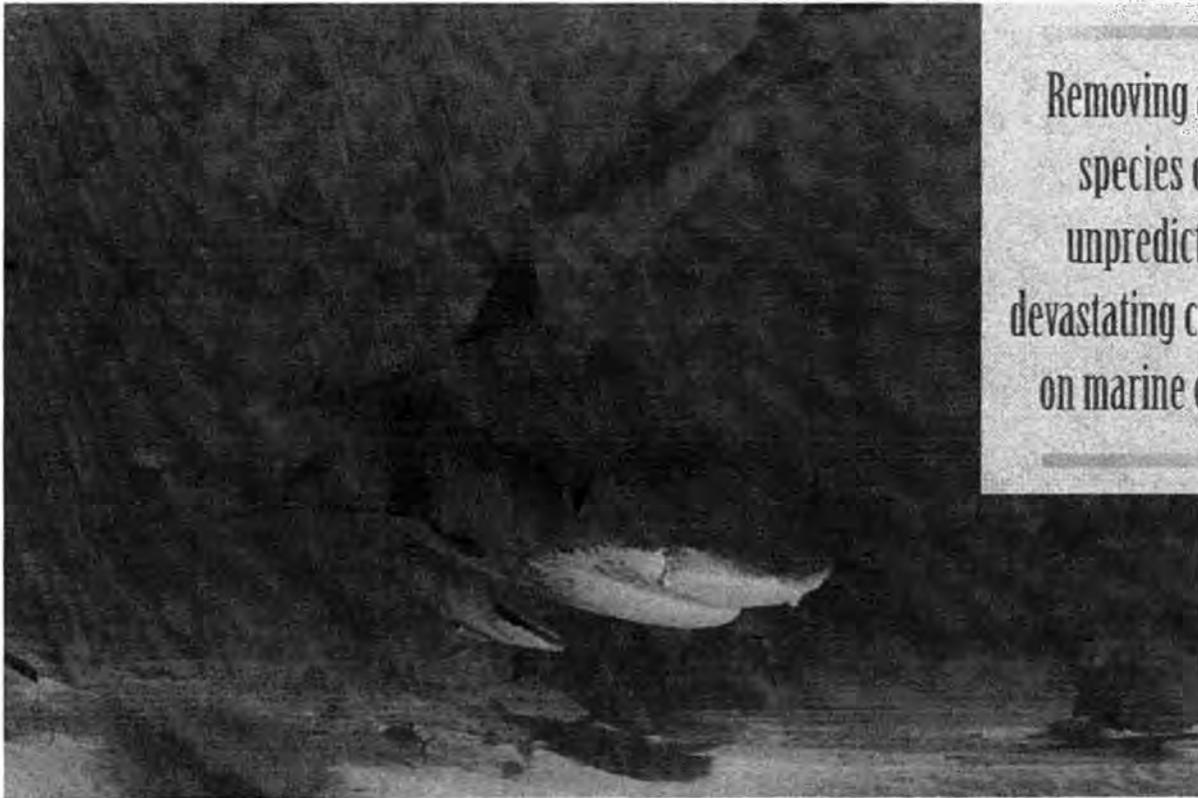


Photo © Rob Stewart/ Sharkwater

Removing apex shark species can have unpredictable and devastating consequences on marine ecosystems

Although removing top predators can have different effects on various ocean communities, an increasing number of studies have detected large-scale effects on ocean ecosystems, often called “cascades.”³⁰ The following case studies from around the globe show that the removal of apex shark species can have unpredictable and devastating consequences on marine ecosystems.

The Loss of the Great Sharks in the North Atlantic

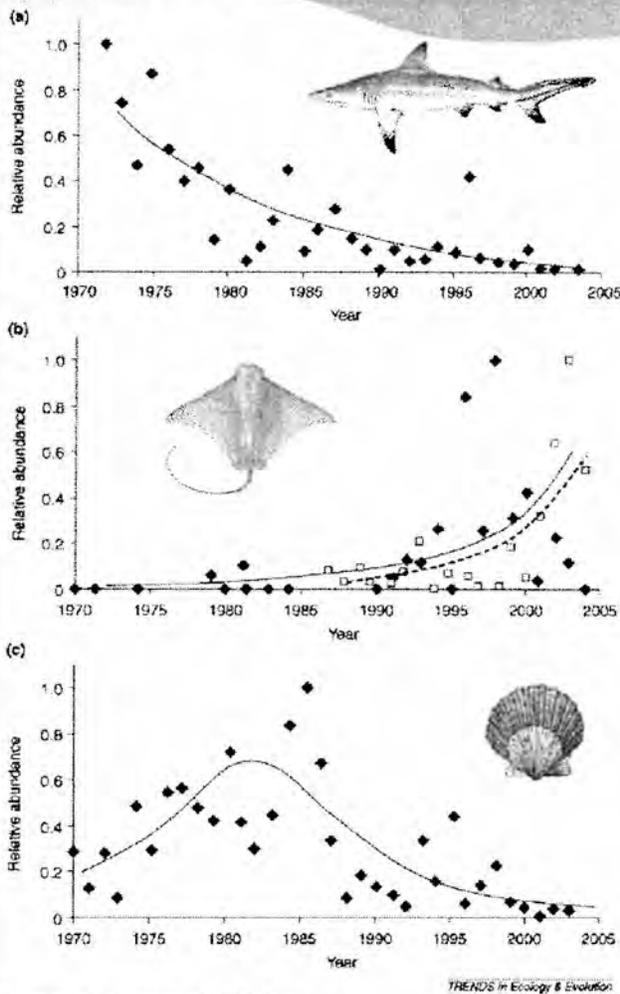
Surveys show that the abundance of the 11 great sharks (sharks more than two meters in length) along the eastern coast of the United States has declined to levels of functional elimination. This means that the sharks are now unable to perform their ecological role as top predators.³¹ All of the species in this area, except for the mako, have declined by more than 50 percent in the past eight to 15 years.³² Scalloped hammerhead, white and thresher shark abundances are estimated to have declined by more than 75 percent in the past 15 years.³³ During this same period, their prey — 12 species of rays, skates and smaller sharks — have increased in abundance by as much as ten-fold.³⁴

The effect of this decline has cascaded throughout the entire ecosystem, resulting in the collapse of a century-old scallop fishery. The species that increased most in abundance was the cownose ray, which migrates up and down the eastern coast consuming scallops, clams and oysters.³⁵ By 2004, bivalve predation by cownose rays had removed most of the bay scallops, terminating the North Carolina fishery.³⁶ Without bay scallops to eat, the cownose ray, along with other rays, skates and small sharks, is expected to expand its foraging to clams and oysters.³⁷ This has already been seen with the loss of another bivalve, a hard clam known as the Quahog.³⁸ The decline of the Quahog, a key ingredient in clam chowder, is forcing many restaurants to remove this American classic from their menus.³⁹ The disappearance of scallops and clams demonstrates that the elimination of sharks can cause harm to the economy in addition to ecosystems.



Photo © Rob Stewart/Sharkwater

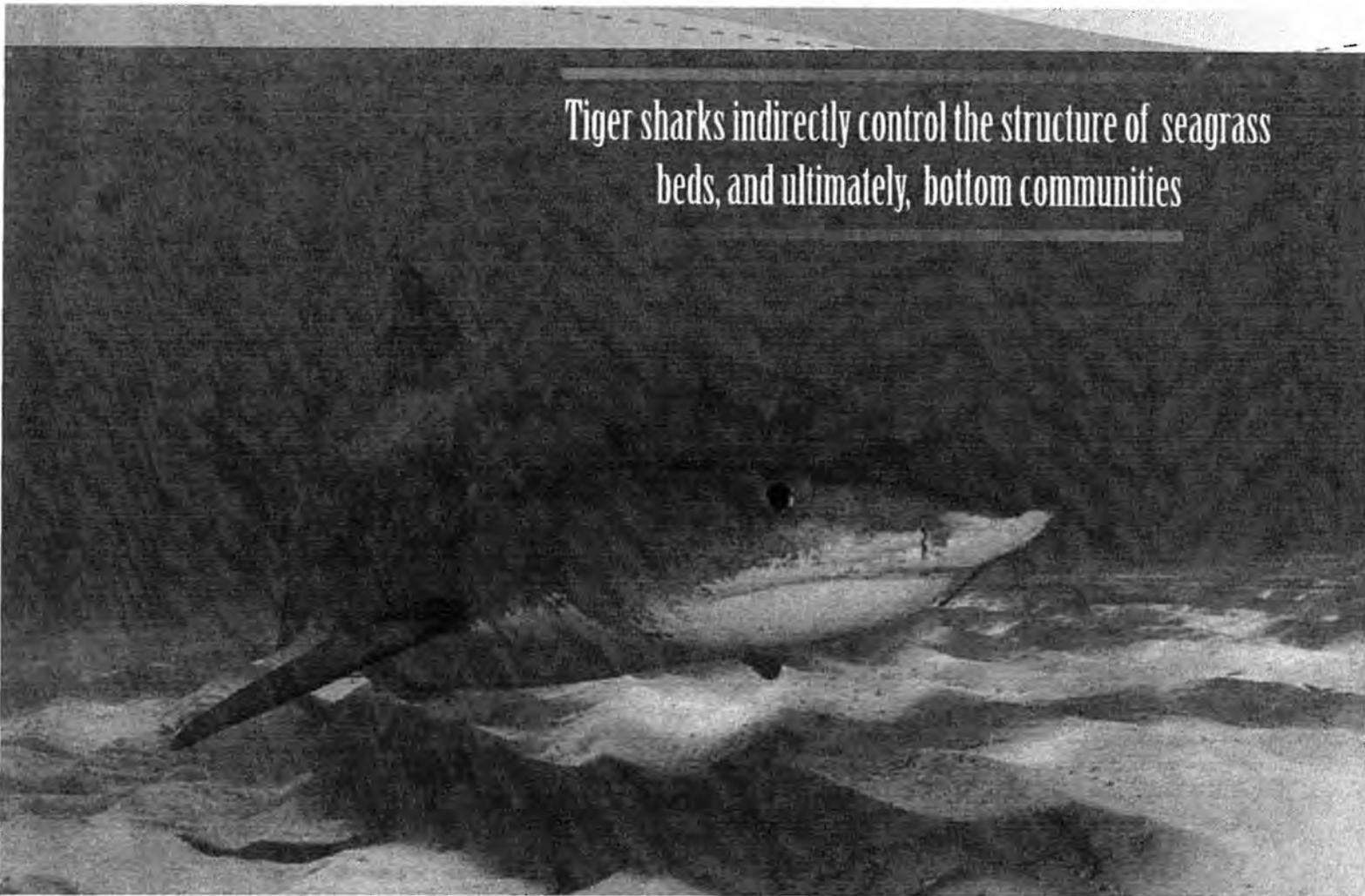
Figure 2: As (a) catch rates of large sharks, such as blacktip sharks, declined during research surveys along the east coast of the U.S., (b) cownose rays began to increase, leading to eventual declines in (c) catches of North Carolina bay scallops.⁴⁰



“Like a swimming pool with a broken filter, a coastal environment without bivalves could choke with blooms of uncontrolled algae.”

Brierley, 2007

Shifts in species abundance are not the only consequence of removing top predators, as habitats also can be altered. Hungry rays roaming the waters and hunting for food have the potential of uprooting seagrass at higher rates, leading to poorer quality nursery grounds for fish.⁴¹ Additionally, bivalves are not only a food source for rays, but a filtration system for the ocean. Bivalves feed on phytoplankton that they filter from the water column, which helps maintain a high level of water quality.⁴² With the decline in scallops, clams and other bivalves, this filtration system is disappearing. As a result, already stressed coastal areas could experience additional uncontrolled algal blooms and dead zones, damaging ocean ecosystems.⁴³

A large tiger shark is shown swimming in the water above a seagrass bed. The shark's distinctive stripes are visible on its side. The seagrass bed below is a mix of light and dark patches, indicating different types of vegetation.

Tiger sharks indirectly control the structure of seagrass beds, and ultimately, bottom communities

Photo © Rob Stewart/Sharkwater

Tiger Sharks in Shark Bay, Australia

Tiger shark intimidation alters the spatial distribution of their prey and structures the dynamics of the seagrass community. In Shark Bay, Australia, dugongs and green sea turtles, which are common tiger shark prey, alter their habitat selection based on the presence of tiger sharks. This creates a trade-off between safety and food quality for the species. Tiger sharks also intimidate and affect the location of species that are relatively rare in their diet, such as bottlenose dolphins and pied cormorants.

Dugongs prefer the nutritious seagrass found in the middle of large grassy patches, but it is very difficult to escape from a tiger shark in these locations. When tiger shark abundance is high, dugongs feed on the lower quality seagrass located near a patch's edge, thereby reducing their risk of predation.⁴⁴ Dugongs alter their distribution on a daily basis depending on the number and location of sharks in the area.⁴⁵ When grazing, dugongs remove the entire seagrass plant, altering the composition and structure of the seagrass meadow, the nutrient content of the plant and the detrital structure of the system.^{46,47} By forcing dugongs to change their habitat selection, tiger sharks keep grazing in check, which in turn keeps the seagrass at relatively constant levels.⁴⁸ Tiger sharks are indirectly controlling the structure of seagrass beds and, ultimately, bottom communities.⁴⁹



Photo © R.P. van Dam

Green sea turtles exhibit a similar response. Green sea turtles feed by removing the top portion of seagrass blades from a specific plot.^{50,51} The continued grazing in these plots produces a high quality diet for the turtles, while stimulating rapid growth of the seagrass blades and an increased rate of nutrient recycling.^{52,53} In the presence of tiger sharks, healthy green sea turtles were found foraging in lower quality habitat that was safer, while sick or injured green sea turtles risked predation to forage in higher quality habitats.⁵⁴ The tiger sharks' influence on green sea turtles was shown to redistribute their grazing patterns, which altered the seagrass community, the chemical composition of the blades and the detrital cycle.⁵⁵

Tiger sharks not only influence the distribution of their prey, but also intimidate species that rarely appear in their diet. Tiger sharks have been shown to directly and indirectly affect the location of bottlenose dolphin and pied cormorant foraging. Although shallow waters are the most productive habitat, bottlenose dolphins and pied cormorants avoid shallow waters when sharks are present.^{56,57} Once sharks leave the area, dolphins and pied cormorants are able to occupy all habitats and freely pursue their food.⁵⁸ Even though tiger sharks do not kill many of these species, the changes they induce in their prey's behavior are equivalent or greater in magnitude than the effects of direct mortality.⁵⁹



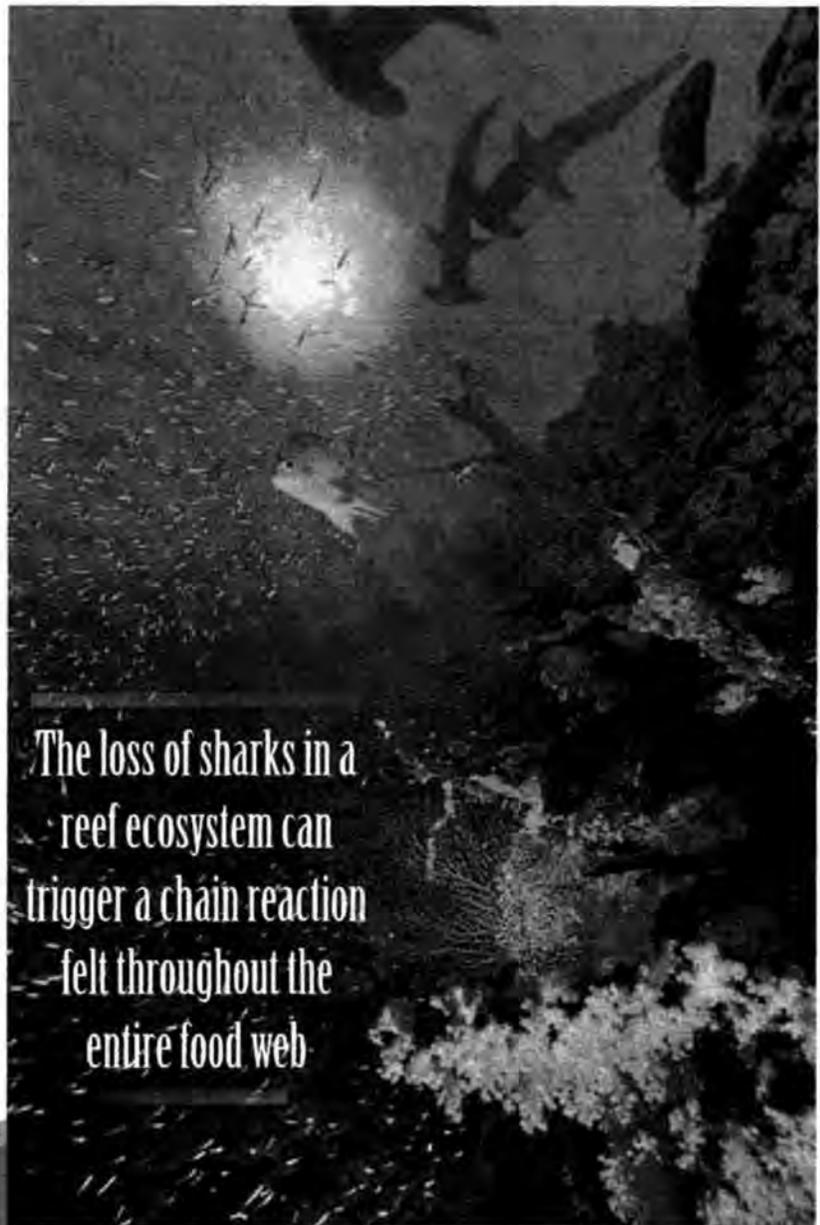
The Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystem

Healthy coral reefs provide a complex, three-dimensional habitat that promotes species diversity and abundance.⁶⁰ The loss of sharks in a reef ecosystem, like that of the Caribbean Sea, can trigger a chain reaction that is felt throughout the entire food web, ultimately leading to the degradation of coral reefs on a local or even regional scale.

Since macroalgae compete with coral for settlement on reefs,⁶¹ coral depend on herbivorous fish to graze the algae and provide space for coral to settle and grow.⁶² A reduction in herbivorous fish prevents coral from thriving. The loss of sharks as top predators in the ecosystem allows the number of grouper, which eat other fish species, to increase.⁶³ The groupers in turn reduce the number of herbivores, such as parrotfish, blennies and gobies, in the system. Without these herbivores to eat algae off the coral, algae will take over a reef system.⁶⁴ This overgrowth of macroalgae makes the habitat homogeneous, minimizes the number of

available niches for fish species and decreases the species diversity.⁶⁵ The shifts in abundance following coral decline change the overall species diversity and composition of the entire reef system, which even affect fish species that have no reliance on the live coral.⁶⁶ The removal of sharks from the coral reef ecosystem can ultimately affect the resilience of coral reefs to disturbance, leading to a homogeneous habitat with declines in species diversity and abundance.

The coral reefs of Jamaica demonstrate this shift from a healthy to a damaged state. Over the past 30 to 40 years, the species composition in Jamaica has changed drastically. Sharks, snappers, jacks, triggerfish and groupers are now replaced by small herbivorous fish.⁶⁷ Along with this change in species composition, coral abundance has declined from more than 50 percent in the late 70s to less than five percent in the 90s.⁶⁸ Even though the remaining fish are herbivores, they are too small (more than half are below reproductive size) to reverse the shift from a coral to algae-dominated system.⁶⁹ Because coral cannot compete, macroalgae now cover more than 90 percent of the reefs.⁷⁰ Jamaica provides a clear example of the time and scale on which a shift from coral to algae can occur as a result of the loss of sharks from an ecosystem.



The loss of sharks in a reef ecosystem can trigger a chain reaction felt throughout the entire food web

Photo © Rob Stewart/Bluewater

Sleeper Sharks in Prince William Sound, Alaska

Models of spatial and dietary shifts of harbor seals in response to sleeper sharks provide another example of shark intimidation resulting in behavioral modification of prey species and a change in abundance of commercially important fish species. Even though mortality from sharks is low, harbor seals alter their habitat and foraging in response to predation pressure.⁷¹

Two top prey items for seals in this area are Pacific herring and walleye pollock.⁷² Herring are fatty fish that congregate near the surface of the water and are often widely dispersed.⁷³ Pollock, on the other hand, are found in the deeper waters preferred by sharks, but are larger and have a more continuous distribution, which makes them a more predictable resource for seals.⁷⁴ When sleeper sharks are present, shark intimidation reduces seal foraging in the deeper waters and therefore directly increases the mortality of herring while decreasing the mortality of pollock.⁷⁵ The health of a seal dictates how much risk it is willing to assume. For example, if herring is scarce and the seal's energy state is poor, it is more willing to venture into deeper water in search of pollock.⁷⁶ The removal of sharks changed this response by releasing seals from fear, allowing them to increase their use of deep waters to consume pollock and decrease their foraging of herring on the surface.⁷⁷

The presence of sleeper sharks directly alters the behavior of their prey. These changes can alter the population density or fitness of other species.⁷⁸ Species at lower levels in the food chain may experience declines or even extinction as a result of disruptions resulting from chain reactions in the ecosystem.⁷⁹ When the behavioral responses of prey species are altered, the changes in their foraging patterns can cause cascading impacts throughout the food web.



When the behavioral responses of prey species are altered, the changes in their foraging patterns can cause cascading impacts throughout the food web

Conclusions and Recommendations

Sharks as apex predators can regulate species abundance, distribution and diversity, which in turn can impact the health of marine habitats. Additionally, they provide essential food sources for scavengers and remove the sick and weak from populations of prey species. The decimation of these important shark species can have cascading effects throughout the ecosystems they inhabit, resulting in economically and ecologically devastating consequences.

Unfortunately, sharks have been eliminated from so many parts of the ocean that we now have very few good examples that explicitly document their importance to ocean ecosystems. Nevertheless, as the examples of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and Palmyra show, ecosystems that we consider healthy — the last marine wilderness areas — contain large numbers of sharks. On the other hand, some studies show what the oceans will look like without sharks. Economically important fisheries shut down. Coral reefs shift to algae dominated systems. Seagrass beds in decline. Ecological chain reactions set in motion. Species diversity and abundance declines with the loss of habitats. And the list goes on...

Protecting sharks and allowing their populations to recover is essential to restoring the health of our oceans. The following three actions are essential to making that happen:

Three Key Steps to Protect Sharks:

- Reduce the number of sharks captured in commercial fisheries through improved shark management, including requiring strict species-specific fishing quotas and stock assessments.
- Truly end shark finning by requiring that all sharks be landed whole with their fins still naturally attached.
- Reduce the demand for shark products such as shark fin soup.

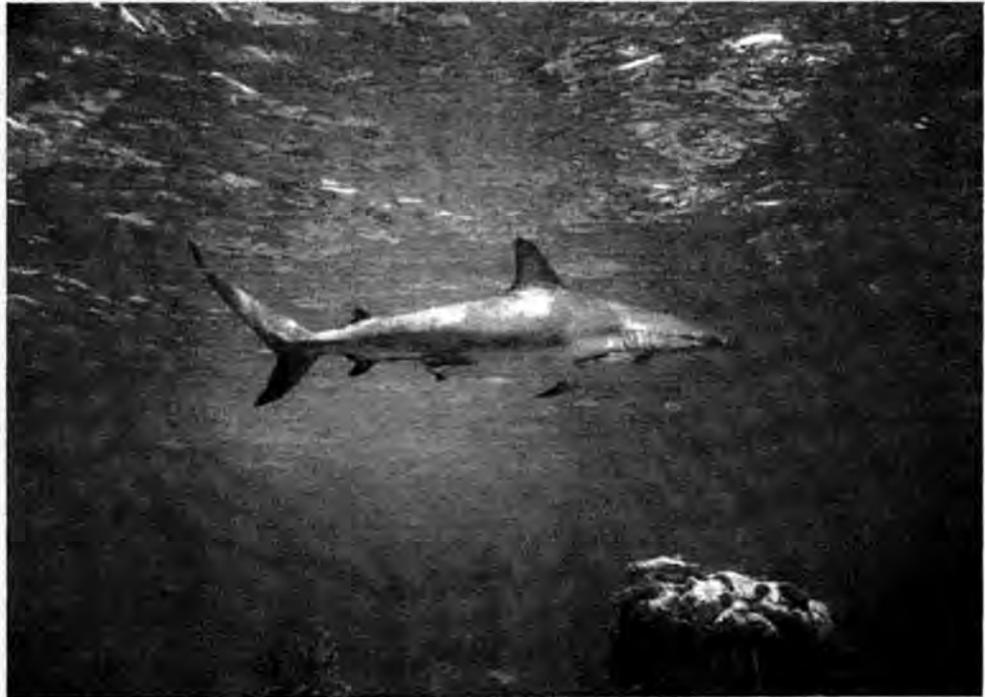


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Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our teams of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America (Washington, DC; New York, NY; Juneau, AK; Anchorage, AK; Monterey, CA; Portland, OR; St. Petersburg, FL and Boston, MA), Europe (Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium) and South America (Santiago, Chile). More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.Oceana.org.



SEA THE VALUE:

Quantifying the Value of Marine Life to Divers

MARTY SNYDERMAN

SCUBA DIVERS ARE VALUABLE PARTICIPANTS IN ECOTOURISM and provide coastal areas with economic incentives to protect and preserve local marine wildlife and habitats.¹ Similarly, non-coastal regions with large numbers of divers and dive shops also have a vested interest in protecting and restoring the health of marine wildlife. Divers often enjoy a deeper understanding and willingness to protect the oceans because they have experienced them firsthand.

Divers contribute to local economies by paying to dive and vacationing in areas near dive sites. As a group, scuba divers take an estimated 1.7 million dive vacations each year at an average cost of \$2,424 per trip, thus spending more than \$4.1 billion dollars in dive-related vacations annually.² In addition, divers obtain personal value from seeing marine life when they explore the underwater world. Quantifying this value is important, in part, because it provides economic justification for the protection of marine wildlife.

Oceana conducted a study, in collaboration with Duke University, to assess the value of seeing healthy corals, sea turtles and sharks to divers. To assess this economic value, scuba divers were asked the maximum amount of money they were willing to pay, in addition to their normal dive costs, for an increased likelihood of seeing a particular species. In addition, the survey examined the divers' views on their role in marine conservation. Information was obtained from 504 scuba divers from across the United States who responded to a 25 question, web-based survey.

The results of the study show that marine wildlife is of great value to scuba divers. In fact, most divers are willing to pay additional money for a chance to dive with sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs.

Table 1. Average additional amount scuba divers are willing to pay per dive to view wildlife and the total annual value across all six million dives taken in the United States³

VALUE (U.S. \$)	SEA TURTLES	SHARKS	HEALTHY CORALS
Average Per Dive	\$ 29.63	\$ 35.36	\$ 55.35
Total Annual Value	\$ 177.8 million	\$ 212.2 million	\$ 332.1 million

¹ Arin, T. and R.A. Kramer. 2002. Divers' willingness to pay to visit marine sanctuaries: An exploratory study. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 45.

² Cline. 1997. *Diving Industry Consumer Survey*. <http://www.clinegroup.net/diving/diveintro2.html>

³ Estimated number of divers in the U.S. (1.2 million) and average number of dives they take annually (5) from Davison, B. 2007. How many divers are there?—and why you should care. *Undercurrent*, 22(5). <http://www.undercurrent.org/UCnow/articles/DiverPopulation?00705.shtml>

SEA TURTLES

Many scuba divers enjoy viewing sea turtles in their natural habitat and seek out dive sites with healthy sea turtle populations. Of the scuba divers surveyed, 76 percent were willing to pay more for an increased likelihood of swimming with a sea turtle in the wild, with the average additional amount being \$29.63. Using a conservative estimate that the 1.2 million active U.S. scuba divers take an average of five dive trips per year, the annual value of seeing a sea turtle is \$177.8 million.

Less experienced divers were willing to pay more than experienced divers, presumably because they have had fewer opportunities to interact with sea turtles. Women were willing to pay an average of \$5.82 more than men to see sea turtles.

Sea turtles are protected in many parts of the world, and tourists are often willing to pay to view sea turtles both on land and in the water. As a point of comparison, viewing marine mammals, which are protected in all U.S. waters, has grown to a \$1 billion per year industry operating in 87 countries.⁴

SHARKS

Surveyed divers ranked sharks as the top species they would like to see on a dive. Seventy-one percent of divers were willing to pay more to see sharks, with the average amount being \$35.36 per dive. Again, using a conservative estimate that the 1.2 million active U.S. scuba divers take an average of five dive trips per year, the annual value of seeing a shark is \$212.2 million. The market for the U.S. shark fishery is currently valued at \$19 million.⁵ Clearly, sharks are worth more alive as part of the ecotourism industry than dead as part of the fishing industry.

In addition to their direct value to divers, as top predators sharks help maintain the structure and health of marine ecosystems – the very world divers are willing to pay to see.



SEA TURTLES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION because of many human-caused threats, including commercial fishing gear, pollution and habitat loss. Although all six species of sea turtles in U.S. waters are listed under the Endangered Species Act, many populations continue to decline. For example, loggerhead sea turtle nesting in Florida has declined by nearly 50 percent over the past decade.⁵ The loss of key species, such as sea turtles, can make a dive location less desirable and, therefore, reduce its value as an ecotourism destination.



MORE THAN 100 MILLION SHARKS ARE KILLED annually by fisheries. This has caused some shark populations to decline by as much as 99 percent.⁷ The biggest threat to shark survival is the strong economic incentive to fin sharks for the Asian delicacy of shark fin soup.

⁴ Hoyt, E. 2001. *Whale Watching 2001: Worldwide tourism numbers, expenditures, and expanding socioeconomic benefits*. International Fund for Animal Welfare, Yarmouth Port, MA, USA, pp. i-vi; 1-158.

⁵ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2008. Long-term monitoring program reveals a continuing loggerhead decline, increases in green turtle and leatherback nesting. http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=27537

⁶ 2006 shark landings values from National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006 Annual Commercial Landing Statistics. http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/commercial/landings/annual_landings.html. This value was then multiplied by 2.27 (Kirkley, J.E., et al. 2006. Reducing capacity in U.S. managed fisheries. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-76, 45p.) to assess the total value to the market.

⁷ Myers, Ransom A., Baum, Julia K., Shepherd, Travis D., Powers, Sean P., and Peterson, Charles H. (2007). Cascading effects of the loss of apex predatory sharks from a coastal ocean. *Science* 315:1846-1850.

HEALTHY CORAL REEFS

Scuba divers are generally willing to spend more to help protect dive sites.⁸ More than 95 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to donate an entrance fee to dive in a protected healthy coral reef ecosystem. While scuba divers ranked corals lower on their list of desired species, they were willing to pay more money to see a healthy coral reef, with the average amount being \$55.35. Healthy coral reefs received the highest value of all the species polled, with the annual value of seeing healthy coral being \$332.1 million. By recognizing the need to conserve coral reefs, scuba divers are acknowledging the importance of a healthy reef ecosystem to all other types of marine wildlife.

Of the 467 respondents willing to pay more to see healthy reefs, nearly three-quarters viewed coral reefs as an essential component of the marine ecosystem. The most common reason given by divers that were not willing to pay to protect coral reefs was that they could not afford to donate (90.5 percent),



indicating they still believe reef conservation is important. Less experienced divers were once again willing to pay more than experienced divers. Women were willing to pay more on average (\$65.08) than men (\$45.64). Higher income respondents also were willing to pay higher entrance fees to dive in protected areas.



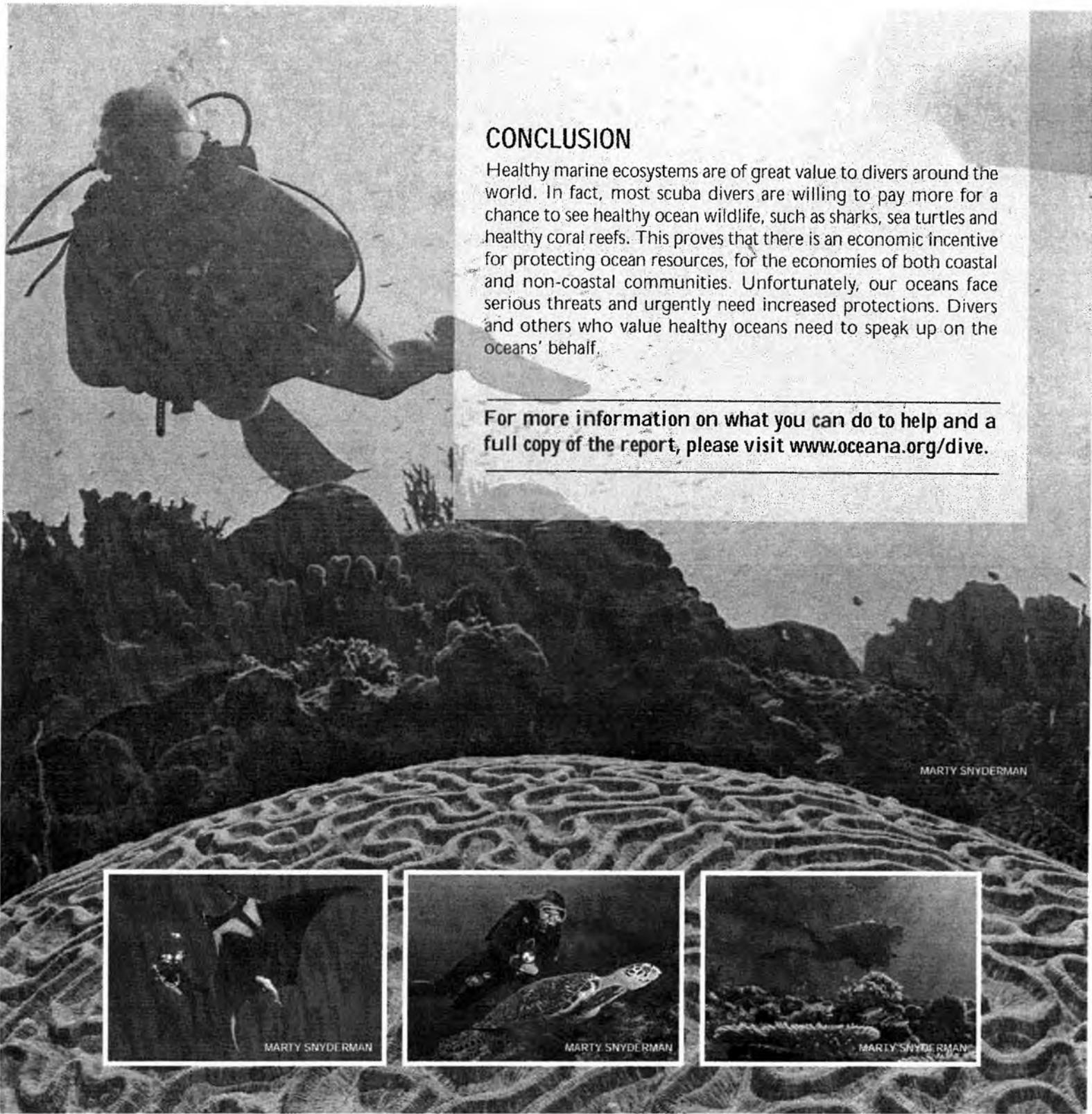
DIVERS' ROLE IN CONSERVATION

Since most divers believe that the quality of a dive is affected by the amount and variety of species available, scuba divers have a vested interest in conserving the oceans. More than 82 percent of the survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that divers play an active role in ocean conservation.

When asked if the U.S. government sufficiently protects its dive sites, most divers said no. Scuba

divers saw pollution as the most damaging threat to ocean health, followed by unsustainable fishing, loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity and, finally, climate change. These are all areas where divers feel the U.S. should improve ocean conservation and management to help better protect marine habitats.

⁸ Depondt, F. and E. Green. 2006. Diving user fees and the financial sustainability of marine protected areas: Opportunities and impediments. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 49:188-202.



CONCLUSION

Healthy marine ecosystems are of great value to divers around the world. In fact, most scuba divers are willing to pay more for a chance to see healthy ocean wildlife, such as sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs. This proves that there is an economic incentive for protecting ocean resources, for the economies of both coastal and non-coastal communities. Unfortunately, our oceans face serious threats and urgently need increased protections. Divers and others who value healthy oceans need to speak up on the oceans' behalf.

For more information on what you can do to help and a full copy of the report, please visit www.oceana.org/dive.

MARTY SNYDERMAN



Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our teams of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America (Washington, DC; New York, NY; Juneau, AK; Anchorage, AK; Monterey, CA; Portland, OR; St. Petersburg, FL and Boston, MA), Europe (Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium) and South America (Santiago, Chile). More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.Oceana.org.



WYLAND WORLDWIDE, LLC

TO: GuamLegislature
Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio

RE: Bill 44-31 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Honorable members of the Legislature,

I would like to strongly urge you to support this important bill. With it's passage it will set an important precedent in curtailing the trade in shark fins, which is wreaking havoc on our shark populations and the health of our oceans.

As a founding board member of the Ocean Graphic Arts Society, I speak as the voice of 500 artists, filmmakers and professional wildlife photographers. We all have personally witnessed the damage that has been inflicted on our oceans and its creatures.

And as a marine artist and conservationist, my goal is to educate the public about the beauty and importance of the marine environment. Sharks, as apex predators, play an absolutely vital role in sustaining this environment, on which all of us depend.

I strongly urge you to establish Guam as a leader in conservation efforts, recognizing the value of our assets and taking steps to protect them while we still can. Many of the world's countries have already depleted their ocean resources because they failed to recognize the situation until it was too late to act. You still have time by making a groundbreaking decision that the rest of the world can follow. You can show that the Guam values its offshore resources and is taking the proper measures to protect them today -- for future generations and the health of our planet.

Please support the passage of this very important bill. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Aloha and Mahalo!

WYLAND

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio
FROM: Stefanie Brendl
Pacific Shark Initiative
WildAid Shark Campaign Project Manager

Pacific Shark Initiative

WildAid



Honorable Members of the Guam Legislature,

I urge you to support 44-31, prohibiting possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts in Guam, for the following reasons:

This measure is important not only for Guam; it will also have far reaching effects on the sustainability of ocean resources in the Pacific.

>> Protecting Sharks ensures sustainable fisheries for the future:

Sharks play a key role in maintaining the health and balance of marine ecosystems.

Declines in shark populations have been linked to dire consequences farther down the food chain, including collapse of stocks of commercially important food species and degradation of coral reefs.

Areas with healthy shark populations have a greater abundance of fish.

Sharks take out the sick, the dead and the dying fish. This keeps epidemics and parasites under control and makes sure that fish populations remain healthy. As top predators sharks are THE most important element in keeping a balance amongst all other hunters and plant eaters in the ocean.

Removal of sharks is detrimental to all other fisheries.

A healthy ocean ecosystem depends on sharks. Guam depends on the ocean ecosystem for tourism, fishing and recreational businesses.

>> Shark finning is a barbaric and wasteful practice.

More than 100 million sharks are slaughtered every year. Allowing the sale of distribution of fins is supporting an industry that is devastating the oceans worldwide.

One third of shark species are now considered at threat. Some populations have declined by over 90% in the last fifteen years. Best estimates show that over-fishing has put 20% of all shark species and more than 50% of pelagic sharks at serious risk of extinction.

Sharks are decimated worldwide because of the high demand for fins.

>> Shark fins alone have no nutritional value and are high in Mercury.

Shark fin soup is a status symbol. A meal served to impress.

Killing sharks for fins is the same as killing rhino for their horn, groupers for their lips or elephants just for their tusks.

Shark meat and fins have been shown to be high in Mercury, as the heavy metals accumulate in the top ocean predators.

>> Sharks and rays reproduce extremely slow. Unlike tuna, which produce millions of eggs a year, sharks have only small litters of 6-20 pups, some of the ray species as little as one pup per year. They don't reach maturity for many years. (The larger species have to be 5-10 years old before they will have offspring)

Once a population has been removed, it can take decades to be restored.

>> The fin trade brings ZERO benefits to the islands:

The trade in fins provides short-term benefits to a small group of people, while causing harm to the ocean system that provides the people of the Guam with a means for their livelihoods, food, recreation and tourism industry.

>> Fining supports organized crime:

The shark fin trade has increased illegal fishing to supply shark fins. Often trading in shark fins has become a way to launder drug money.

By prohibiting the trade of shark fins and ray parts, Guam will have better protection from illegal fishing and will prevent attracting illegal enterprises.

Palau, Hawaii and the CNMI have taken a stand against this industry, and so should the rest of the Pacific.

Since the Hawaii bill has shut down the State as a distribution point for the Pacific, activities are likely to shift to other areas in the region. It is of greatest importance that the Island Nations protect themselves from the possible consequences.

>> Simplified Enforcement: A ban on the practice of finning by itself is difficult to enforce.

Prohibiting the sale and trade of fins and ray parts, such as bill 44-31, provides a way to easier enforcement and more complete protection.

>> Passing this bill will put the Guam in the forefront of shark and ray conservation world wide,

Guam would be joining the efforts of its neighbors, Hawaii, Palau and the CNMI to become leader in shark conservation.

HAWAII was the first jurisdiction that outlawed possession of shark fins- a groundbreaking measure that has set a new standard for legislation.

PALAU has declared its complete archipelago a shark sanctuary, where shark fishing is prohibited and sharks are protected.

CNMI was the first US territory to enact a law that bans shark fin possession, trade and sale

>> Successful dive tourism is directly linked to eco tourism. Increasingly, divers will no longer support regions that destroy marine life. Sharks are a major attraction for divers and if managed correctly, are a resource that can contribute millions to the economy. Sharks can bring in revenue for decades when viewed by divers, rather than being killed off for a meager one-time profit of finning or fishing.

By passing this legislation you will show foresight and vision by protecting a vital resource so important to life in the islands.

There are ONLY benefits to be gained and no economic drawbacks to passing this bill. In Hawaii, passage of the bill brought great International attention and recognition. The international dive community will take notice, as will the media.

I would be happy to provide you with additional information of any kind relating to the shark finning issue.

Sincerely

Stefanie Brendl
Project Manager, Pacific Shark Initiative
brendl@wildaid.org 808 778-6740

www.wildaid.org

www.sharksavers.org



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 26, 2011

31st Legislature of Guam
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio

RE: Bill 44-31 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Aloha Vice Speaker Cruz and Senator Respicio,

As the author of the Hawaii Senate Bill 2169 entitled, "Relating to Shark Fins", I am pleased to offer my testimony in strong support of Bill 44-31. You may be aware that the new law in Hawaii is the strongest that we are aware of in the world.

The bill before your committee is very similar to SB 2169 which became Act 148 when it was signed into law on May 28, 2010.

It is my firm belief that should the measure before your committee and others similarly proposed to address the marine life of your reefs that in time Oceania will become a more healthy, sustainable and productive marine ecosystem for future generations. We are, after all, one people from one ocean.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I urge you to join Hawaii with your favorable consideration of this important legislation. I am available should you have any questions at 1-(808) 586-7330.

Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Senator
Chairman of Senate Judiciary



Petition to prohibit possession, sale and trade of shark fins

31st Guam Legislature
Vice Speaker BJ Cruz and Senator Rory Respicio
RE: Bill 44-31

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

25 January, 2011

We are writing from the world famous Galapagos Islands where top marine scientists, business innovators, artists and environmental leaders are convening to address the crisis afflicting the world's oceans.

Among our chief concerns is the decimation of global shark populations due to overfishing and the demand for shark-fin soup. The practice of shark finning, where a shark is captured, the fins removed, often while the shark is still living and the body discarded, is a brutal practice that is decimating shark populations worldwide. The destruction of the species threatens to disrupt the very balance of our oceans, on which all of us depend for survival.

We strongly urge you to support reform which would prohibit the sale, possession or trade of any shark fin products across the globe.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Sylvia Earle

Dylan & Corie

IM COUSTEAU

Jim Cousteau

CÉLINE COUSTEAU

Cousteau

BOB NIXON

Bob H. Nixon



P. DEE BOERSMA

P. Dee Boersma

Bryce Groark

Bryce Groark

Dennis Shaw

Dennis Shaw

GLENN COSE

Glenn Cose

Reyna Ocas

Reyna Ocas

SUEN LINDBLAD

Suen Lindblad

ENRIC SALA

Enric Sala

Jack Cohen

Jack Cohen

DIANNA COHEN

Dianna Cohen

Shannon O'Leary-Joy

Shannon O'Leary-Joy

ROZ SAVAGE

Roz Savage

Michael V. deGrady

BRIAN SKEPPY

Jim Toomey

STEVE PALUMBI

PETER TRACH

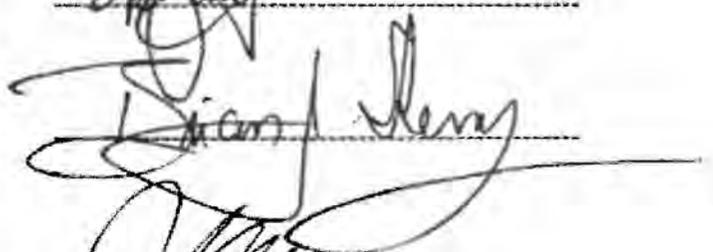
DAMIEN RICE

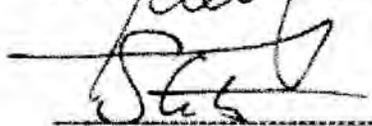
DAN LAFFOLEY

CALLUM ROSEKIS

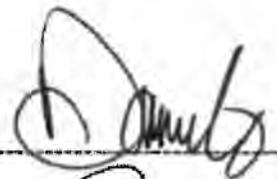
Jacqueline Norgratz

CHRIS ANDERSON

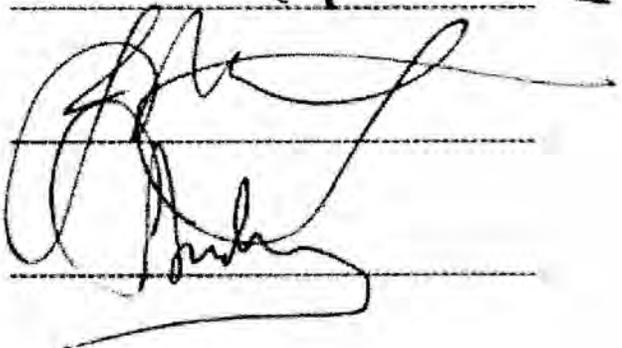












Print

Vernon Gault

Fred Grassle

Jake Eberts

Tracey Dwaning

Shana Rbertson

EDWARD NORTON

Elizabeth Barr

MAX HANCOCKMAN

Carbera Pe

P. D. KNIGHTS

Fisher Stevens

Sign

Kristina Gjerde

J. J. Gault

Jake Eberts

Tracey Dwaning

Shana Rbertson

Edward Norton

Elizabeth Barr

Max Hancockman

Carbera Pe

P. D. Knight

Fisher Stevens

Josh Grant →
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Kristin Gore

Erik H. Gordon

Jackson Browne

Jackson Browne

Amy Novogratz

AMY NOVOGRATZ

Buffy Redbeckel

Buffy Redbeckel

Gigi Brisson

Gigi Brisson.

JEREMY JACKSON

Shari Sant Plummer

Shari SANT PLUMMER

Adriana M. Fischer

Adriana M. Fischer

Adriana M. Fischer

Adriana M. Fischer

Matthew

Michael Kendall

Daryl Hinman

DARYL HINMAN



List of people in favor CNMI sharkfin legislation via Mission Blue:

- 1) Sylvia Earle - Oceanographer/Explorer
- 2) Jean Michelle Cousteau - Cousteau Society
- 3) Celine Cousteau - Cousteau Society
- 4) Leonardo Di Caprio – Actor
- 5) Edward Norton – Actor
- 6) Brian Skerry - National Geographic
- 7) Fisher Stevens - Actor/Producer
- 8) Glen Close – Actress
- 9) Darryl Hannah – Actress
- 10) Elizabeth Banks – Actress
- 11) Jackson Browne – Musician
- 12) Chris Anderson - TED Curator
- 13) Kristen Gore – Writer
- 14) Kristina Gjerde - High Seas Policy Advisor
- 15) Addison Fischer – Philanthropist
- 16) Enric Sala - National Geographic Ecologist
- 17) Peter Knights – WildAid
- 18) Bob Nixon – Producer
- 19) Dee Boersma - Conservation Biologist
- 20) Bryce Groark - Photographer
- 21) David Shaw – Entrepreneur
- 22) Reyna Oleas – Educator
- 23) Sven Lindblad - Lindblad Expeditions
- 24) Barton Seaver - Chef/Advocate
- 25) Diana Cohen - Plastic Pollution Coalition
- 26) Roz Savage - Ocean Explorer
- 27) Shannon O’Leary Joy – Entrepreneur
- 28) Mike DeGruy – Conservationist
- 29) Jim Toomey – Cartoonist
- 30) Steve Palumbi - Marine Ecologist
- 31) Peter Tyack – Oceanographer
- 32) Damien Rice – Musician
- 33) Dan Laffoley – IUCN
- 34) Callum Roberts - Ecologist/Author
- 35) Jacqueline Novogratz - Acumen Fund
- 36) Fred Grassle - Biological Oceanographer
- 37) Jake Eberts - Film Producer
- 38) Tracey Durning – Entrepreneur
- 39) Shauna Robertson - Film Producer/Crowd Rise
- 40) Max Handelman – Author
- 41) Barbara Block - Tuna Ecologist

- 42) Erik Gordon – Producer
- 43) Amy Novogratz - Director of the Ted Prize
- 44) Buffy Redseckel – Photographer
- 45) Gigi Brisson – Entrepreneur
- 46) Jeremy Jackson - Coral Reef Ecologist
- 47) Shari Saint Plummer – Conservationist
- 48) Michael Holland – Publicist
- 49) Arjan Gupta - Venture Capitalist
- 50) Damien Drake – Cinematographer
- 51) Rob Dunbar - Deep Sea Coral Specialist

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Lidia** <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 9:42 AM

Subject: Fwd: Testimony in support of 44-31

To: Bj Cruzc <senadotbjcruz@gmail.com>, "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>, sem@guamlegislature.org, frankaguon23@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **stefanie brendl** <stefaniebrendl@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:32 AM

Subject: Testimony in support of 44-31

To: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, Angelo Villagomez <angelovillagomez@gmail.com>, Shawn Heinrichs <shawn.heinrichs@bluespheremedia.com>, Mary O'Malley <maryomalley@mac.com>, Carlotta Leon Guerrero <carlottaguam@yahoo.com>, Peter Knights <knights@wildaid.org>, Matt Rand <mrand@pewtrusts.org>, "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>

Senator Respicio, Mike,

here are some Testimonies in support of 44-31 by

- **Pacific Shark Initiative** (myself and several groups working on shark legislation in the US and Pacific region)
- **Hawaii State Senator Clayton Hee** (the legislator that wrote the ground first shark fin bill in Hawaii)
- **Mission Blue** (a group of highly influential smarine scientists, business innovators, artists and environmental leaders). There is a document with signatures and a separate list that will show you the list of people that signed)
- **Wyland & Ocean Graphic Arts Society** (world renowned artist end environmentalist)

There are more testimonies coming from **WildAid** and **SharkSavers**

Senator Respicio, I have also submitted a variety of research papers and information outlining benefits for tourism, fisheries etc. to Mike at Vice Speaker Cruz' office. If you would like me to submit them again to your office, please let me know. But I didn't want to inundate your offices with material and therefore was hoping one destination for support documents would be sufficient.

Aloha,
Stefanie Brendl

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **stefanie brendl** <stefaniebrendl@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 12:31 AM

Subject: Value of diving Industry (sharks, rays and turtles)

To: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, Angelo Villagomez <angelovillagomez@gmail.com>, Shawn Heinrichs <shawn.heinrichs@bluespheremedia.com>, Mary O'Malley <maryomalley@mac.com>, Carlotta Leon Guerrero <carlottaguam@yahoo.com>, Peter Knights <knights@wildaid.org>, Matt Rand <mrاند@pewtrusts.org>

A good report on the value of sharks for dive tourism versus shark fisheries

pg1

Divers contribute to local economies by paying to dive and vacationing in areas near dive sites. As a group, scuba divers take an estimated 1.7 million dive vacations each year at an average cost of \$2,424 per trip, thus spending more than \$4.1 billion dollars in dive-related vacations annually.²

pg 2

Surveyed divers ranked sharks as the top species they would like to see on a dive. Seventy-one percent of divers were willing to pay more to see sharks, with the average amount being \$35.36 per dive. Again, using a conservative estimate that the 1.2 million active U.S. scuba divers take an average of five dive trips per year, the annual value of seeing a shark is \$212.2 million. The market for the U.S. shark fishery is currently valued at \$19 million.

Clearly, sharks are worth more alive as part of the ecotourism industry than dead as part of the fishing industry.

CONCLUSION

Healthy marine ecosystems are of great value to divers around the world. In fact, most scuba divers are willing to pay more for a chance to see healthy ocean wildlife, such as sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs. This proves that there is an economic incentive for protecting ocean resources, for the economies of both coastal and non-coastal communities.



SEA THE VALUE:

Quantifying the Value of Marine Life to Divers

MARTY SNYDERMAN

SCUBA DIVERS ARE VALUABLE PARTICIPANTS IN ECOTOURISM and provide coastal areas with economic incentives to protect and preserve local marine wildlife and habitats.¹ Similarly, non-coastal regions with large numbers of divers and dive shops also have a vested interest in protecting and restoring the health of marine wildlife. Divers often enjoy a deeper understanding and willingness to protect the oceans because they have experienced them firsthand.

Divers contribute to local economies by paying to dive and vacationing in areas near dive sites. As a group, scuba divers take an estimated 1.7 million dive vacations each year at an average cost of \$2,424 per trip, thus spending more than \$4.1 billion dollars in dive-related vacations annually.² In addition, divers obtain personal value from seeing marine life when they explore the underwater world. Quantifying this value is important, in part, because it provides economic justification for the protection of marine wildlife.

Oceana conducted a study, in collaboration with Duke University, to assess the value of seeing healthy corals, sea turtles and sharks to divers. To assess this economic value, scuba divers were asked the maximum amount of money they were willing to pay, in addition to their normal dive costs, for an increased likelihood of seeing a particular species. In addition, the survey examined the divers' views on their role in marine conservation. Information was obtained from 504 scuba divers from across the United States who responded to a 25 question, web-based survey.

The results of the study show that marine wildlife is of great value to scuba divers. In fact, most divers are willing to pay additional money for a chance to dive with sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs.

Table 1. Average additional amount scuba divers are willing to pay per dive to view wildlife and the total annual value across all six million dives taken in the United States³

VALUE (U.S. \$)	SEA TURTLES	SHARKS	HEALTHY CORALS
Average Per Dive	\$ 29.63	\$ 35.36	\$ 55.35
Total Annual Value	\$ 177.8 million	\$ 212.2 million	\$ 332.1 million

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SEA TURTLES

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Less experienced divers were willing to pay more than experienced divers, presumably because they have had fewer opportunities to interact with sea turtles. Women were willing to pay an average of \$5.82 more than men to see sea turtles.

Sea turtles are protected in many parts of the world, and tourists are often willing to pay to view sea turtles both on land and in the water. As a point of comparison, viewing marine mammals, which are protected in all U.S. waters, has grown to a \$1 billion per year industry operating in 87 countries.⁴

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In addition to their direct value to divers, as top predators sharks help maintain the structure and health of marine ecosystems – the very world divers are willing to pay to see.



SEA TURTLES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION because of many human-caused threats, including commercial fishing gear, pollution and habitat loss. Although all six species of sea turtles in U.S. waters are listed under the Endangered Species Act, many populations continue to decline. For example, loggerhead sea turtle nesting in Florida has declined by nearly 50 percent over the past decade.⁵ The loss of key species, such as sea turtles, can make a dive location less desirable and, therefore, reduce its value as an ecotourism destination.



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⁴ Hoyt, E. 2001. Whale Watching 2001: Worldwide tourism numbers, expenditures, and expanding socioeconomic benefits. International Fund for Animal Welfare, Yarmouth Port, MA, USA, pp. i-vi; 1-158.

⁵ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2008. Long-term monitoring program reveals a continuing loggerhead decline, increases in green turtle and leatherback nesting. http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=27537

⁶ 2006 shark landings values from National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006 Annual Commercial Landing Statistics. http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/commercial/landings/annual_landings.html. This value was then multiplied by 2.27 (Kirkley, J.E., et al. 2006. Reducing capacity in U.S. managed fisheries. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-76, 45p.) to assess the total value to the market.

⁷ Myers, Ransom A., Baum, Julia K., Shepherd, Travis D., Powers, Sean P., and Peterson, Charles H. (2007). Cascading effects of the loss of apex predatory sharks from a coastal ocean. *Science* 315:1846-1850.

HEALTHY CORAL REEFS

Scuba divers are generally willing to spend more to help protect dive sites.⁸ More than 95 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to donate an entrance fee to dive in a protected healthy coral reef ecosystem. While scuba divers ranked corals lower on their list of desired species, they were willing to pay more money to see a healthy coral reef, with the average amount being \$55.35. Healthy coral reefs received the highest value of all the species polled, with the annual value of seeing healthy coral being \$332.1 million. By recognizing the need to conserve coral reefs, scuba divers are acknowledging the importance of a healthy reef ecosystem to all other types of marine wildlife.

Of the 467 respondents willing to pay more to see healthy reefs, nearly three-quarters viewed coral reefs as an essential component of the marine ecosystem. The most common reason given by divers that were not willing to pay to protect coral reefs was that they could not afford to donate (90.5 percent),



indicating they still believe reef conservation is important. Less experienced divers were once again willing to pay more than experienced divers. Women were willing to pay more on average (\$65.08) than men (\$45.64). Higher income respondents also were willing to pay higher entrance fees to dive in protected areas.



DIVERS' ROLE IN CONSERVATION

Since most divers believe that the quality of a dive is affected by the amount and variety of species available, scuba divers have a vested interest in conserving the oceans. More than 82 percent of the survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that divers play an active role in ocean conservation.

When asked if the U.S. government sufficiently protects its dive sites, most divers said no. Scuba

divers saw pollution as the most damaging threat to ocean health, followed by unsustainable fishing, loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity and, finally, climate change. These are all areas where divers feel the U.S. should improve ocean conservation and management to help better protect marine habitats.

⁸ Depondt, F. and E. Green. 2006. Diving user fees and the financial sustainability of marine protected areas: Opportunities and impediments. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 49:188-202.



CONCLUSION

Healthy marine ecosystems are of great value to divers around the world. In fact, most scuba divers are willing to pay more for a chance to see healthy ocean wildlife, such as sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs. This proves that there is an economic incentive for protecting ocean resources, for the economies of both coastal and non-coastal communities. Unfortunately, our oceans face serious threats and urgently need increased protections. Divers and others who value healthy oceans need to speak up on the oceans' behalf.

For more information on what you can do to help and a full copy of the report, please visit www.oceana.org/dive.

MARTY SNYDERMAN



Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our teams of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America (Washington, DC; New York, NY; Juneau, AK; Anchorage, AK; Monterey, CA; Portland, OR; St. Petersburg, FL and Boston, MA), Europe (Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium) and South America (Santiago, Chile). More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.Oceana.org.

Best Regards
Mike Lidia

On Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 12:18 AM, stefanie brendl <stefaniebrendl@gmail.com> wrote:
Mike,

I will be sending you a few more studies and papers for the hearing. To make it a little easier, I will cut relevant captions to highlight the important context.

Page1

The impact of fishing on chondrichthyan stocks around the world is currently the focus of considerable international concern. Most chondrichthyan populations are of low productivity relative to teleost fishes, a consequence of their different life-history strategies. This is reflected in the poor record of sustainability of target shark fisheries. Most sharks and some batoids are predators at, or near, the top of marine food webs. The effects of fishing are examined at the single-species level and through trophic interactions. We summarize the status of chondrichthyan fisheries from around the world. Some 50% of the estimated global catch of chondrichthyans is taken as by-catch, does not appear in official fishery statistics, and is almost totally unmanaged. When taken as by-catch, they are often subjected to high fishing mortality directed at teleost target species. Consequently, some skates, sawfish, and deep-water dogfish have been virtually extirpated from large regions.

...

(bottom of page 1)

Introduction

Concerns over the impact of fishing on shark and ray populations around the world are currently being raised at an international level through a number of fora....

(the entire Introduction has great information)

(this is why WESPAC is incompetent to manage sharks)

...Compounding the problem is the oceanic and highly migratory nature of many species, placing them outside the responsibility of individual countries and outside the mandate of international bodies, which were mostly set up for management of tunas.

pg 488

....shark depletion could lead to strong and unforeseen changes in the abundances of many species (Fig. 4). According to the model, these changes would be permanent as long as shark populations remain depressed. Surprisingly, not all species whose abundances increased greatly are major prey of sharks. In fact, the species undergoing the greatest relative increases in abundance (croakers, snappers/groupers, grunts, catfish, and other demersals) are all minor components in the diet of the small triakid sharks, suggesting that shark depletion propagates through the food web in a complex way.

pg 490

Conclusions

Chondrichthyans, by nature of their K-selected life- history strategies and high position in trophic food webs, are more likely to be affected by intense fishing activity than most teleosts. The group may in fact be indicators of fishing pressure. There is sufficient evidence from the history of fisheries around the world, both targeting these fishes and taking them as by-catch, of major declines in population size. For some groups, particularly certain skate species and sawfishes, there is mounting evidence suggesting that local if not global extinction is a distinct possibility. This problem is especially acute for species with restricted distributions. The massive and uncontrolled catch of chondrichthyans in the Indo-West Pacific, coupled with the higher diversity and rates of endemism in this region, are cause for major concern. There is increasing evidence that indirect effects of fishing are affecting the composition and diversity of chondrichthyan and total fish assemblages through trophic interactions. Differential vulnerability to fishing exists among sharks and rays and large, late maturing species appear to be most vulnerable.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Lidia** <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 9:42 AM

Subject: Fwd: Testimony in support of 44-31

To: Bj Cruz <senadotbjcruz@gmail.com>, "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>, sem@guamlegislature.org, frankaguon23@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **stefanie brendl** <stefaniebrendl@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:32 AM

Subject: Testimony in support of 44-31

To: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, Angelo Villagomez <angelovillagomez@gmail.com>, Shawn Heinrichs <shawn.heinrichs@bluespheremedia.com>, Mary O'Malley <maryomalley@mac.com>, Carlotta Leon Guerrero <carlottaguam@yahoo.com>, Peter Knights <knights@wildaid.org>, Matt Rand <mrاند@pewtrusts.org>, "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>

Senator Respicio, Mike,

here are some Testimonies in support of 44-31 by

- **Pacific Shark Initiative** (myself and several groups working on shark legislation in the US and Pacific region)
- **Hawaii State Senator Clayton Hee** (the legislator that wrote the ground first shark fin bill in Hawaii)
- **Mission Blue** (a group of highly influential smarine scientists, business innovators, artists and environmental leaders). There is a document with signatures and a separate list that will show you the list of people that signed)
- **Wyland** & Ocean Graphic Arts Society (world renowned artist end environmentalist)

There are more testimonies coming from **WildAid** and **SharkSavers**

Senator Respicio, I have also submitted a variety of research papers and information outlining benefits for tourism, fisheries etc. to Mike at Vice Speaker Cruz' office. If you would like me to submit them again to your office, please let me know. But I didn't want to inundate your offices with material and therefore was hoping one destination for support documents would be sufficient.

Aloha,
Stefanie Brendl



MISSIONBLUE
SYLVIA EARLE FOUNDATION

Petition to prohibit possession, sale and trade of shark fins

31st Guam Legislature
 Vice Speaker BJ Cruz and Senator Rory Respicio
RE: Bill 44-31

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

25 January, 2011

We are writing from the world famous Galapagos Islands where top marine scientists, business innovators, artists and environmental leaders are convening to address the crisis afflicting the world's oceans.

Among our chief concerns is the decimation of global shark populations due to overfishing and the demand for shark-fin soup. The practice of shark finning, where a shark is captured, the fins removed, often while the shark is still living and the body discarded, is a brutal practice that is decimating shark populations worldwide. The destruction of the species threatens to disrupt the very balance of our oceans, on which all of us depend for survival.

We strongly urge you to support reform which would prohibit the sale, possession or trade of any shark fin products across the globe.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
 Sincerely,

SYLVIA EARLE

Dylan & Corie

JM COUSTEAU

Jim Cousteau

CÉLINE COUSTEAU

Cousteau

BOB NIXON

Bob Nixon

P. DEE BOERSMA

P. Dee Boersma

Bryce Groark

Bryce Groark

Dennis Shaw

Dennis Shaw

GLENN COSE

Glenn Cose

Reyna Ocas

Reyna Ocas

SUEN LINDBLAD

Suen Lindblad

ENRIC SALA

Enric Sala

DATA CENTER

Data Center

DIANNA COHEN

Dianna Cohen

Shannon O'Keefe

Shannon O'Keefe

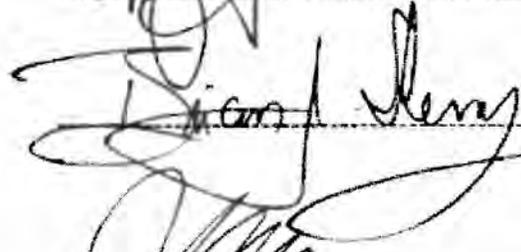
ROZ SAVAGE

Roz Savage

Michael V. deGruy



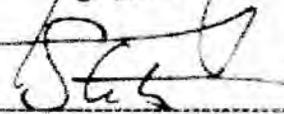
BRIAN SKEERY



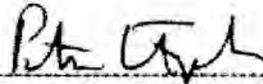
Jim Toomey



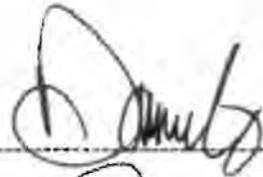
STEVE PALUMBI



PETER TRACH



DAMIEN RICE



DAN LAFFOLEY



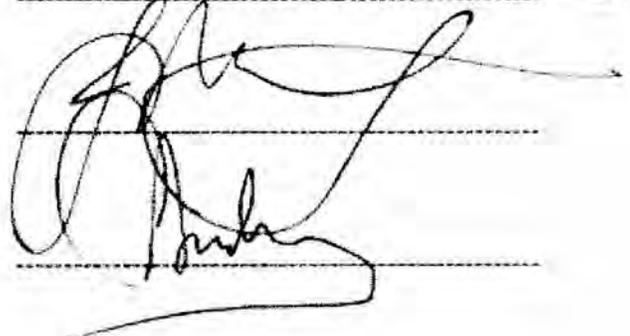
CALLUM ROSEKIS



Jacqueline Norgratz



CHRIS ANDERSON



Print

Morten Gule

Fred Grassle

Take Eberts

Tracey Downing

Stanna Rbertson

EDWARD NORTON

Elizabeth Barr

MAX HAUGSEMAN

Cubua R

P. D. KNIGHTS

Fisher Stevens

Sign

Kristine Gjerde

F. J. Gule

Take Eberts

Tracey Downing

Stanna Rbertson

Edward Norton

Elizabeth Barr

Max Haugseman

Cubua R

P. D. Knight

Fisher Stevens

Justin Grant →
m

Kristin Gore

Erik H. Gordon

Jackson Browne

Jackson Browne

Amy Novogratz

Amy Novogratz

Buffy Redseckel

Gigi Brisson

Gigi Brisson.

Jeremy Jackson

JEREMY JACKSON

Shari Sant Plummer

Shari SANT PLUMMER

Addison M. Fischere

Addison M. Fischere

Addison M. Fischere

Addison M. Fischere

Matthew

Michael Holland

Dayf Hinwah

DARYL HANNAH



List of people in favor CNMI sharkfin legislation via Mission Blue:

- 1) Sylvia Earle - Oceanographer/Explorer
- 2) Jean Michelle Cousteau - Cousteau Society
- 3) Celine Cousteau - Cousteau Society
- 4) Leonardo Di Caprio – Actor
- 5) Edward Norton – Actor
- 6) Brian Skerry - National Geographic
- 7) Fisher Stevens - Actor/Producer
- 8) Glen Close – Actress
- 9) Darryl Hannah – Actress
- 10) Elizabeth Banks – Actress
- 11) Jackson Browne – Musician
- 12) Chris Anderson - TED Curator
- 13) Kristen Gore – Writer
- 14) Kristina Gjerde - High Seas Policy Advisor
- 15) Addison Fischer – Philanthropist
- 16) Enric Sala - National Geographic Ecologist
- 17) Peter Knights – WildAid
- 18) Bob Nixon – Producer
- 19) Dee Boersma - Conservation Biologist
- 20) Bryce Groark - Photographer
- 21) David Shaw – Entrepreneur
- 22) Reyna Oleas – Educator
- 23) Sven Lindblad - Lindblad Expeditions
- 24) Barton Seaver - Chef/Advocate
- 25) Diana Cohen - Plastic Pollution Coalition
- 26) Roz Savage - Ocean Explorer
- 27) Shannon O’Leary Joy – Entrepreneur
- 28) Mike DeGruy – Conservationist
- 29) Jim Toomey – Cartoonist
- 30) Steve Palumbi - Marine Ecologist
- 31) Peter Tyack – Oceanographer
- 32) Damien Rice – Musician
- 33) Dan Laffoley – IUCN
- 34) Callum Roberts - Ecologist/Author
- 35) Jacqueline Novogratz - Acumen Fund
- 36) Fred Grassle - Biological Oceanographer
- 37) Jake Eberts - Film Producer
- 38) Tracey Durning – Entrepreneur
- 39) Shauna Robertson - Film Producer/Crowd Rise
- 40) Max Handelman – Author
- 41) Barbara Block - Tuna Ecologist

- 42) Erik Gordon – Producer
- 43) Amy Novogratz - Director of the Ted Prize
- 44) Buffy Redseckel – Photographer
- 45) Gigi Brisson – Entrepreneur
- 46) Jeremey Jackson - Coral Reef Ecologist
- 47) Shari Saint Plummer – Conservationist
- 48) Michael Holland – Publicist
- 49) Arjan Gupta - Venture Capitalist
- 50) Damien Drake – Cinematographer
- 51) Rob Dunbar - Deep Sea Coral Specialist



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 26, 2011

31st Legislature of Guam
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio

RE: Bill 44-31 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Aloha Vice Speaker Cruz and Senator Respicio,

As the author of the Hawaii Senate Bill 2169 entitled, "Relating to Shark Fins", I am pleased to offer my testimony in strong support of Bill 44-31. You may be aware that the new law in Hawaii is the strongest that we are aware of in the world.

The bill before your committee is very similar to SB 2169 which became Act 148 when it was signed into law on May 28, 2010.

It is my firm belief that should the measure before your committee and others similarly proposed to address the marine life of your reefs that in time Oceania will become a more healthy, sustainable and productive marine ecosystem for future generations. We are, after all, one people from one ocean.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I urge you to join Hawaii with your favorable consideration of this important legislation. I am available should you have any questions at 1-(808) 586-7330.

Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Senator
Chairman of Senate Judiciary



WYLAND WORLDWIDE, LLC

TO: GuamLegislature
Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio

RE: Bill 44-31 Prohibition of possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts

Honorable members of the Legislature,

I would like to strongly urge you to support this important bill. With it's passage it will set an important precedent in curtailing the trade in shark fins, which is wreaking havoc on our shark populations and the health of our oceans.

As a founding board member of the Ocean Graphic Arts Society, I speak as the voice of 500 artists, filmmakers and professional wildlife photographers. We all have personally witnessed the damage that has been inflicted on our oceans and its creatures.

And as a marine artist and conservationist, my goal is to educate the public about the beauty and importance of the marine environment. Sharks, as apex predators, play an absolutely vital role in sustaining this environment, on which all of us depend.

I strongly urge you to establish Guam as a leader in conservation efforts, recognizing the value of our assets and taking steps to protect them while we still can. Many of the world's countries have already depleted their ocean resources because they failed to recognize the situation until it was too late to act. You still have time by making a groundbreaking decision that the rest of the world can follow. You can show that the Guam values its offshore resources and is taking the proper measures to protect them today -- for future generations and the health of our planet.

Please support the passage of this very important bill. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Aloha and Mahalo!

WYLAND

Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz
Chairman Rory J. Respicio
FROM: Stefanie Brendl
Pacific Shark Initiative
WildAid Shark Campaign Project Manager

Pacific Shark Initiative

WildAid



Honorable Members of the Guam Legislature,

I urge you to support 44-31, prohibiting possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins and ray parts in Guam, for the following reasons:

This measure is important not only for Guam; it will also have far reaching effects on the sustainability of ocean resources in the Pacific.

>> Protecting Sharks ensures sustainable fisheries for the future:

Sharks play a key role in maintaining the health and balance of marine ecosystems.

Declines in shark populations have been linked to dire consequences farther down the food chain, including collapse of stocks of commercially important food species and degradation of coral reefs.

Areas with healthy shark populations have a greater abundance of fish.

Sharks take out the sick, the dead and the dying fish. This keeps epidemics and parasites under control and makes sure that fish populations remain healthy. As top predators sharks are THE most important element in keeping a balance amongst all other hunters and plant eaters in the ocean.

Removal of sharks is detrimental to all other fisheries.

A healthy ocean ecosystem depends on sharks. Guam depends on the ocean ecosystem for tourism, fishing and recreational businesses.

>> Shark finning is a barbaric and wasteful practice.

More than 100 million sharks are slaughtered every year. Allowing the sale of distribution of fins is supporting an industry that is devastating the oceans worldwide.

One third of shark species are now considered at threat. Some populations have declined by over 90% in the last fifteen years. Best estimates show that over-fishing has put 20% of all shark species and more than 50% of pelagic sharks at serious risk of extinction.

Sharks are decimated worldwide because of the high demand for fins.

>> Shark fins alone have no nutritional value and are high in Mercury.

Shark fin soup is a status symbol. A meal served to impress.

Killing sharks for fins is the same as killing rhino for their horn, groupers for their lips or elephants just for their tusks.

Shark meat and fins have been shown to be high in Mercury, as the heavy metals accumulate in the top ocean predators.

>> Sharks and rays reproduce extremely slow. Unlike tuna, which produce millions of eggs a year, sharks have only small litters of 6-20 pups, some of the ray species as little as one pup per year. They don't reach maturity for many years. (The larger species have to be 5-10 years old before they will have offspring)

Once a population has been removed, it can take decades to be restored.

>> The fin trade brings ZERO benefits to the islands:

The trade in fins provides short-term benefits to a small group of people, while causing harm to the ocean system that provides the people of the Guam with a means for their livelihoods, food, recreation and tourism industry.

>> Fining supports organized crime:

The shark fin trade has increased illegal fishing to supply shark fins. Often trading in shark fins has become a way to launder drug money.

By prohibiting the trade of shark fins and ray parts, Guam will have better protection from illegal fishing and will prevent attracting illegal enterprises.

Palau, Hawaii and the CNMI have taken a stand against this industry, and so should the rest of the Pacific.

Since the Hawaii bill has shut down the State as a distribution point for the Pacific, activities are likely to shift to other areas in the region. It is of greatest importance that the Island Nations protect themselves from the possible consequences.

>> Simplified Enforcement: A ban on the practice of finning by itself is difficult to enforce. Prohibiting the sale and trade of fins and ray parts, such as bill 44-31, provides a way to easier enforcement and more complete protection.

>> Passing this bill will put the Guam in the forefront of shark and ray conservation world wide,

Guam would be joining the efforts of its neighbors, Hawaii, Palau and the CNMI to become leader in shark conservation.

HAWAII was the first jurisdiction that outlawed possession of shark fins- a groundbreaking measure that has set a new standard for legislation.

PALAU has declared its complete archipelago a shark sanctuary, where shark fishing is prohibited and sharks are protected.

CNMI was the first US territory to enact a law that bans shark fin possession, trade and sale

>> Successful dive tourism is directly linked to eco tourism. Increasingly, divers will no longer support regions that destroy marine life. Sharks are a major attraction for divers and if managed correctly, are a resource that can contribute millions to the economy. Sharks can bring in revenue for decades when viewed by divers, rather than being killed off for a meager one-time profit of finning or fishing.

By passing this legislation you will show foresight and vision by protecting a vital resource so important to life in the islands.

There are ONLY benefits to be gained and no economic drawbacks to passing this bill. In Hawaii, passage of the bill brought great International attention and recognition. The international dive community will take notice, as will the media.

I would be happy to provide you with additional information of any kind relating to the shark finning issue.

Sincerely

Stefanie Brendl
Project Manager, Pacific Shark Initiative
brendl@wildaid.org 808 778-6740

www.wildaid.org

www.sharksavers.org

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 12:48 AM

Subject: importance of sharks to fisheries

To: Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, Angelo Villagomez <angelovillagomez@gmail.com>, Shawn Heinrichs <shawn.heinrichs@bluespheremedia.com>, Mary O'Malley <maryomalley@mac.com>, Carlotta Leon Guerrero <carlottaguam@yahoo.com>, Peter Knights <knights@wildaid.org>, Matt Rand <mrland@pewtrusts.org>

Mike,

See attached a document and below a link to a video that addresses arguments why sharks are important for a healthy ocean ecosystem, and why the vitality of fishing grounds is directly related to the abundance of sharks.

Therefore, every fisherman that can see the big picture and that has an interest in preserving resources for the future, (rather than see only the short term gain of next months catch), will see that the protection of sharks is of the highest priority for the fishing community.

“Predators as Prey” Why Healthy Oceans need sharks

page 6 explains how a healthy reef system consists of more than 50 % of Apex predators (sharks)

And it points out that typically over fished ecosystems are lacking sharks

(Guam and the CNMI are unfortunately an example of that)

I highly recommend watching this 15-minute presentation

Enric Sala: Glimpses of a pristine ocean

A healthy coral reef stores 85% of its biomass in the form of sharks.

<http://arcsecond.wordpress.com/2010/05/18/coral-reefs-are-85-shark/>

Predators *as* Prey

Why Healthy Oceans Need Sharks

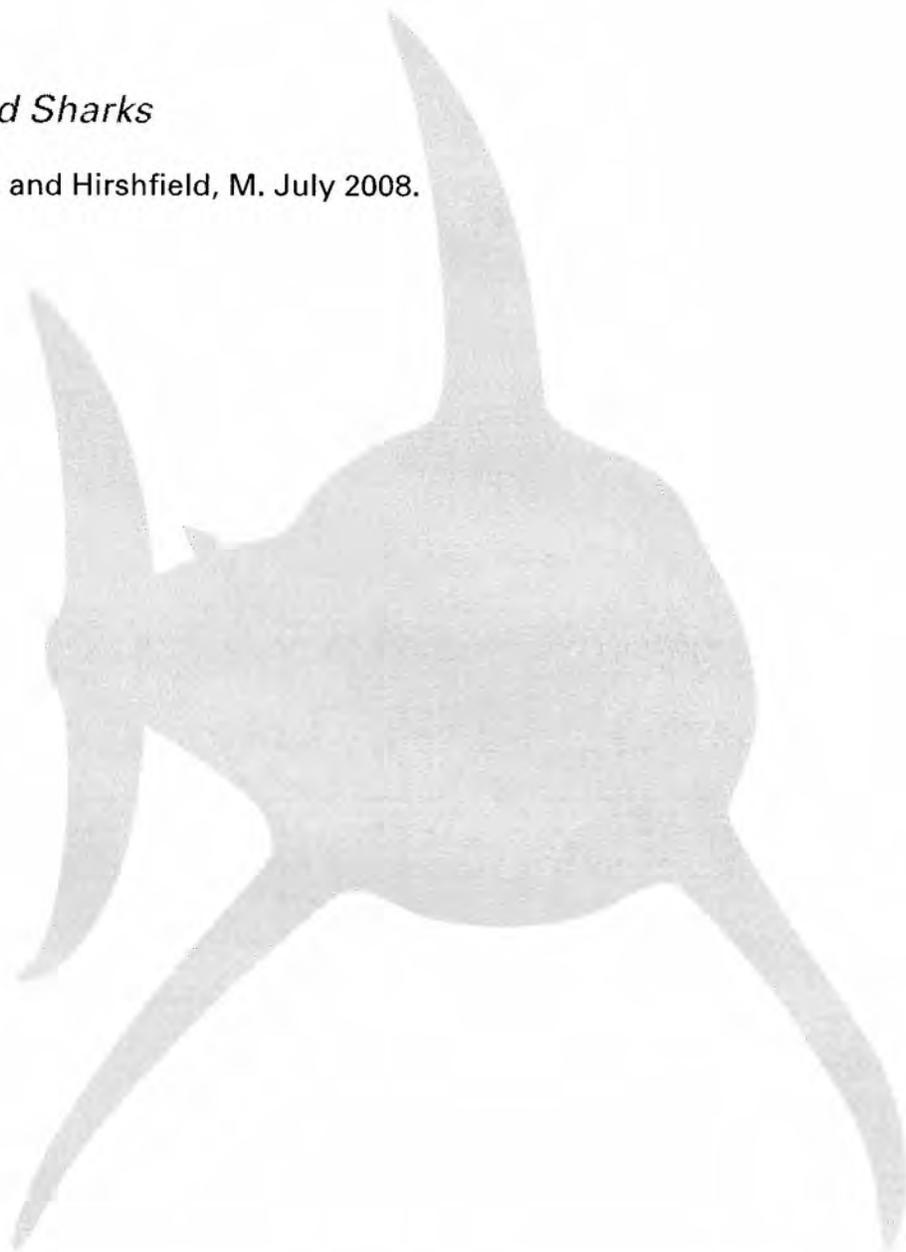
Photo © Rob Stewart/ Sharkwater

 OCEANA
www.oceana.org



Predators as Prey:
Why Healthy Oceans Need Sharks

Griffin, E., Miller, K.L., Freitas, B. and Hirshfield, M. July 2008.



OCEANA

1350 Connecticut Ave. NW, 5th Floor | Washington, DC 20036 USA
T +1.202.833.3900 | F +1.202.833.2070 | www.oceana.org



Sharks have been swimming the world's oceans for more than 400 million years – 100 million years before the first dinosaurs appeared on land. But today, shark populations are being decimated by commercial fishing, putting some species in danger of extinction.

Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry stereotype society has created for them. However, what the world should really fear is a world without sharks. Each year, humans kill more than 100 million sharks worldwide. This includes the tens of millions of sharks



that are caught annually for their fins, which are one of the world's most expensive seafood products.

As top predators, sharks help to manage healthy ocean ecosystems. And as the number of large

sharks declines, the oceans will suffer unpredictable and devastating consequences. Sharks help maintain the health of ocean ecosystems, including seagrass beds and coral reefs. Healthy oceans undoubtedly depend on sharks.

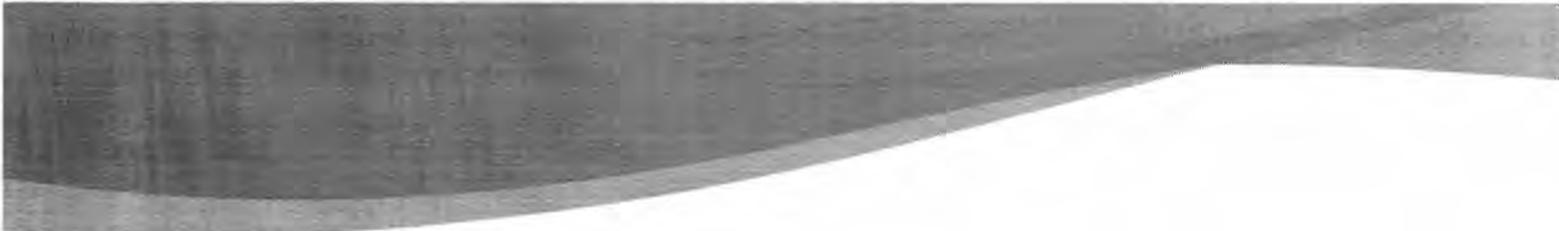


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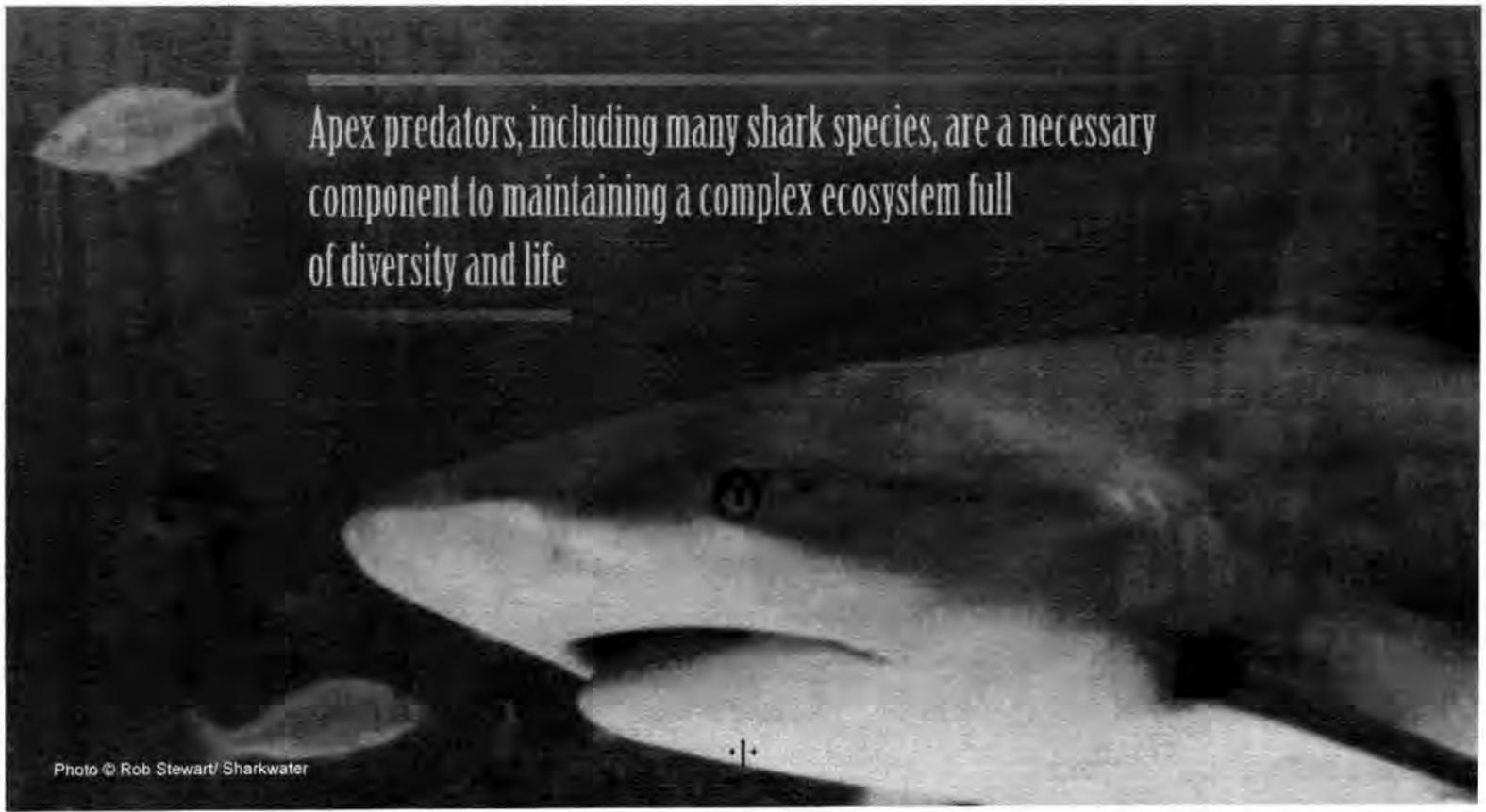
The Importance of Apex Predators to Healthy Ecosystems

Sharks are often the “apex” or top predators in their ecosystems because they have few natural predators. As apex predators, sharks feed on the animals below them in the food web, helping to regulate and maintain the balance of marine ecosystems. Apex predators directly limit the populations of their prey, which in turn affects the prey species of those animals, and so on.¹ The diets of most top predators are quite varied. This allows top predators to switch prey species when certain populations are low, thereby allowing prey species to persist.^{2,3}

Apex predators not only affect population dynamics by consuming prey, but they also can control the spatial distribution of potential prey through intimidation. Fear of shark predation causes some species to alter their habitat use and activity level, leading to shifts in abundance in lower trophic levels.⁴ Top predators affect other animals in a cascade effect throughout the ecosystem, ultimately influencing community structure.⁵

By preventing one species from monopolizing a limited resource, predators increase the species diversity of the ecosystem. To put it simply, more predators lead to greater diversity.⁶ Comparisons of areas with and without apex predators show that apex predators provide greater biodiversity and higher densities of individuals, while areas without apex predators experience species absences.⁷ Without apex predators there is the potential for unchecked predation by other lower predatory species, overeating of vegetation by herbivorous prey species and increased competition that ultimately affects the species richness and abundance within the system.⁸ Apex predators, including many shark species, are a necessary component to maintaining a complex ecosystem full of diversity and life.

In addition to regulating species abundance, distribution and diversity, top predators provide essential food sources for scavengers⁹ and remove the sick and weak individuals from prey populations.¹⁰



Apex predators, including many shark species, are a necessary component to maintaining a complex ecosystem full of diversity and life

The Hawaiian Islands, An Example of a Balanced Marine Ecosystem

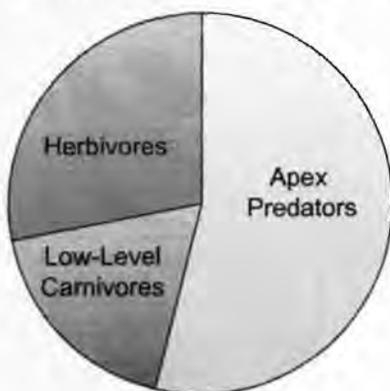
There are very few, if any, pristine locations left in the ocean that are untouched by human activities, especially by the impacts of fishing. Even the most remote locations of the world, such as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), are not free from human interference. However, studying these locations may yield the best possible insight into the structure and natural functioning of unaltered ecosystems. Recent surveys conducted in the central Pacific off the coasts of the NWHI and Palmyra have provided comparisons to the ecosystems of the nearby inhabited Christmas and Fanning Islands and the heavily populated main Hawaiian Islands (MHI).^{11,12}

In these surveys, researchers observed a larger number of fish surrounding the uninhabited islands, with a drastically different composition of species. Most surprising was the fact that apex predators accounted for over half the fish biomass surrounding Palmyra and the NWHI, while the apex predators at Christmas, Fanning and the MHI were less than 10 percent of the fish biomass.^{13,14} In addition, the apex predators, such as sharks, were larger in the waters surrounding the uninhabited islands.¹⁵

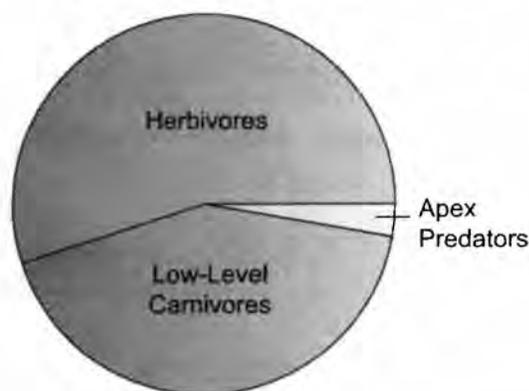
Locations with greater apex predator biomass also had a higher biomass of herbivorous fish, which support the general hypothesis that a coral reef ecosystem with many apex predators also will have many herbivorous fish.¹⁶ Notably, most of the dominant predators found in the NWHI were rare or absent in the MHI.¹⁷ These studies illustrate that a typical trophic pyramid for an unfished coral reef is actually inverted, meaning that most of the fish biomass is at the top levels. It also shows that typical overfished ecosystems are lacking apex predators.¹⁸

Figure 1: Comparison of Trophic Structure Between the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Main Hawaiian Islands Based on Biomass¹⁹

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands



Main Hawaiian Islands



Typical overfished ecosystems are lacking their apex predators

Sharks: Jinxed by “Jaws”

Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry stereotype society has created for them. We consider this the “Jaws” image. However in reality, sharks are some of the world’s most misunderstood animals. There are more than 350 distinct species of sharks that vary in size, diet and habitat, but the vast majority are harmless to humans. In fact, nearly two-thirds of all shark attacks involve just three species— white, tiger and bull.

The reality is that humans are the true top predators of the sea, killing more than 100 million sharks each year in fisheries,²⁰ while sharks mistakenly kill between five and 15 people during that same period.²¹ Scientists estimate that fishing has reduced large predatory fish populations worldwide by 90 percent over the past 50 to 100 years.²² Sharks now represent the largest group of threatened marine species on the World Conservation Union’s (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.²³ Yet only three of the 350 shark species — basking, whale and white — are protected from the pressures of international trade. The remaining species are ignored or seen as low priorities despite their vulnerability to overfishing²⁴ and their important role in their ecosystems.

Shark Finning

The practice of shark finning kills 26 to 73 million sharks each year for their fins.²⁵ Once reserved as a delicacy and a sign of prestige in Asian cultures, shark fin soup consumption is on the rise. Because a bowl of soup can cost up to \$100, the fins are the most economically valuable part of a shark. And since shark carcasses are bulky, take up space and are worth less money, the practice of removing the fins and throwing the bleeding carcasses overboard is far too common. This practice, known as “shark finning,” only uses between one and five percent of the shark. Furthermore, without the bodies, it is nearly impossible for fisheries managers and scientists to accurately identify the species and determine the number of sharks that are being killed.

Humans kill more than 100 million sharks each year



Photo © Oceana/LX

Bycatch

Some fisheries directly target sharks as their intended catch, but other fisheries capture sharks incidentally as “bycatch”, a term used for unintended catch. Unwanted sharks are then thrown overboard, with many of them left dead or injured. Trawl fisheries are responsible for the largest bycatch numbers in coastal areas, while longlines capture the majority of sharks as bycatch on the high seas.²⁶ It is estimated that tens of millions of sharks are caught as bycatch each year, which is nearly half of the total shark catch worldwide.²⁷ These startling numbers demonstrate the extreme threat that commercial fisheries pose to the survival of these top predators. Remarkably, bycatch estimates fail to appear in most fishery statistics, resulting in the continued mismanagement of shark bycatch.^{28, 29}

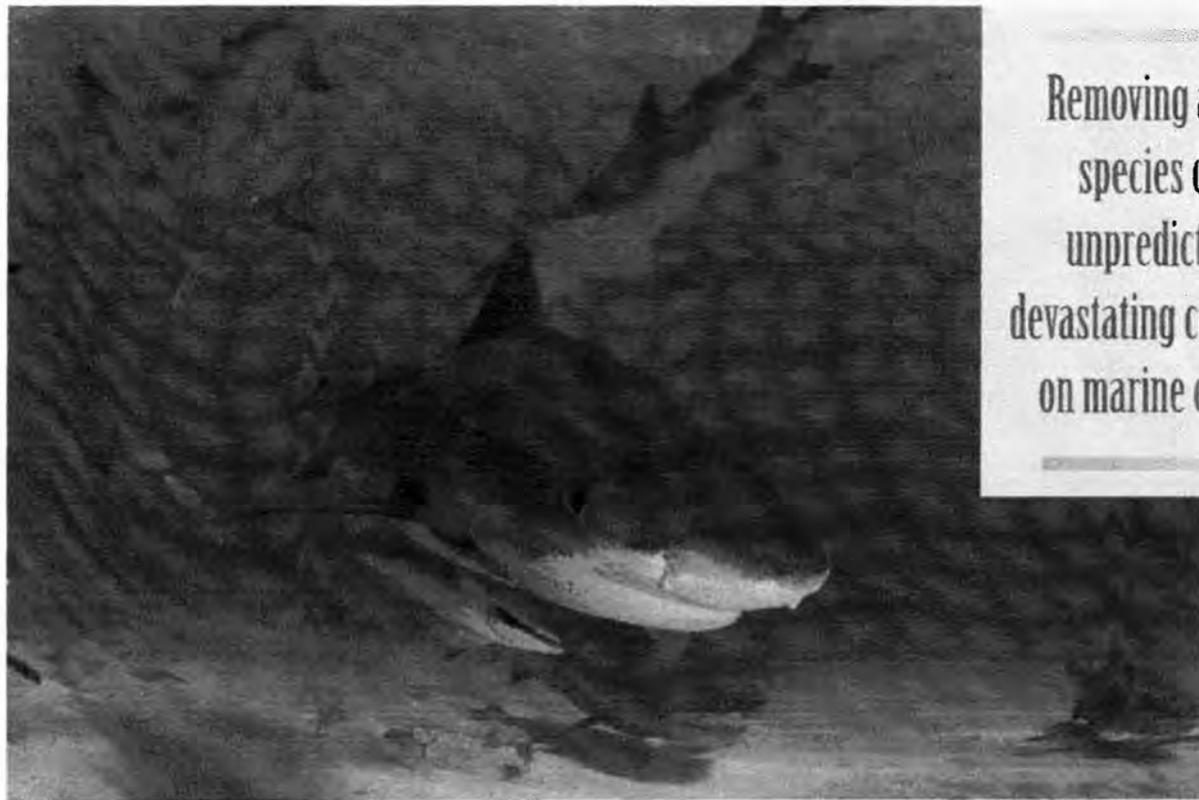


Photo © Rob Stewart/ Sharkwater

Removing apex shark
species can have
unpredictable and
devastating consequences
on marine ecosystems

Although removing top predators can have different effects on various ocean communities, an increasing number of studies have detected large-scale effects on ocean ecosystems, often called “cascades.”³⁰ The following case studies from around the globe show that the removal of apex shark species can have unpredictable and devastating consequences on marine ecosystems.

The Loss of the Great Sharks in the North Atlantic

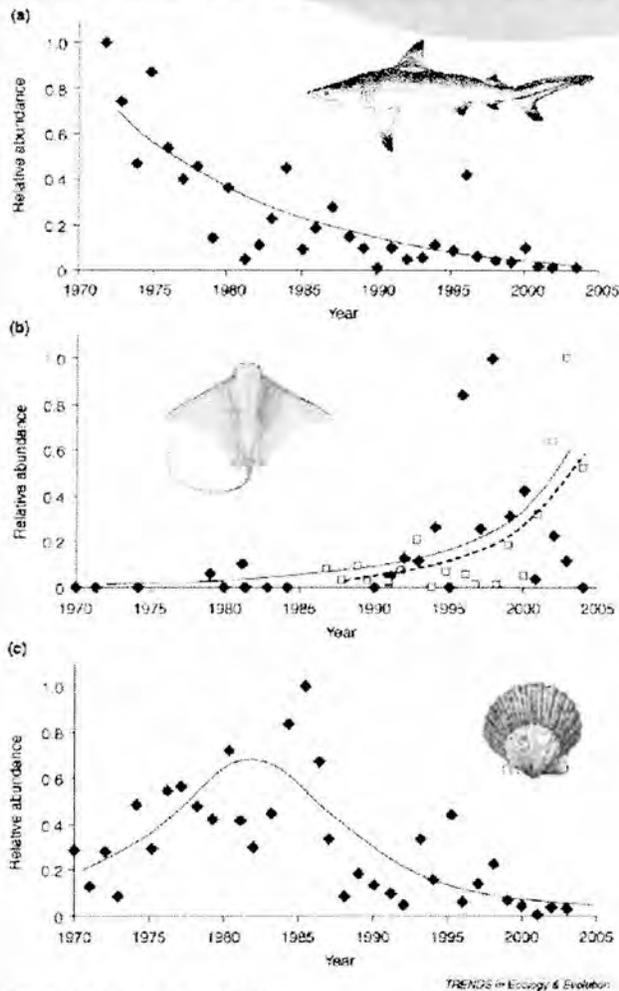
Surveys show that the abundance of the 11 great sharks (sharks more than two meters in length) along the eastern coast of the United States has declined to levels of functional elimination. This means that the sharks are now unable to perform their ecological role as top predators.³¹ All of the species in this area, except for the mako, have declined by more than 50 percent in the past eight to 15 years.³² Scalloped hammerhead, white and thresher shark abundances are estimated to have declined by more than 75 percent in the past 15 years.³³ During this same period, their prey — 12 species of rays, skates and smaller sharks — have increased in abundance by as much as ten-fold.³⁴

The effect of this decline has cascaded throughout the entire ecosystem, resulting in the collapse of a century-old scallop fishery. The species that increased most in abundance was the cownose ray, which migrates up and down the eastern coast consuming scallops, clams and oysters.³⁵ By 2004, bivalve predation by cownose rays had removed most of the bay scallops, terminating the North Carolina fishery.³⁶ Without bay scallops to eat, the cownose ray, along with other rays, skates and small sharks, is expected to expand its foraging to clams and oysters.³⁷ This has already been seen with the loss of another bivalve, a hard clam known as the Quahog.³⁸ The decline of the Quahog, a key ingredient in clam chowder, is forcing many restaurants to remove this American classic from their menus.³⁹ The disappearance of scallops and clams demonstrates that the elimination of sharks can cause harm to the economy in addition to ecosystems.



Photo © Rob Stewart/Sharkwater

Figure 2: As (a) catch rates of large sharks, such as blacktip sharks, declined during research surveys along the east coast of the U.S., (b) cownose rays began to increase, leading to eventual declines in (c) catches of North Carolina bay scallops.⁴⁰

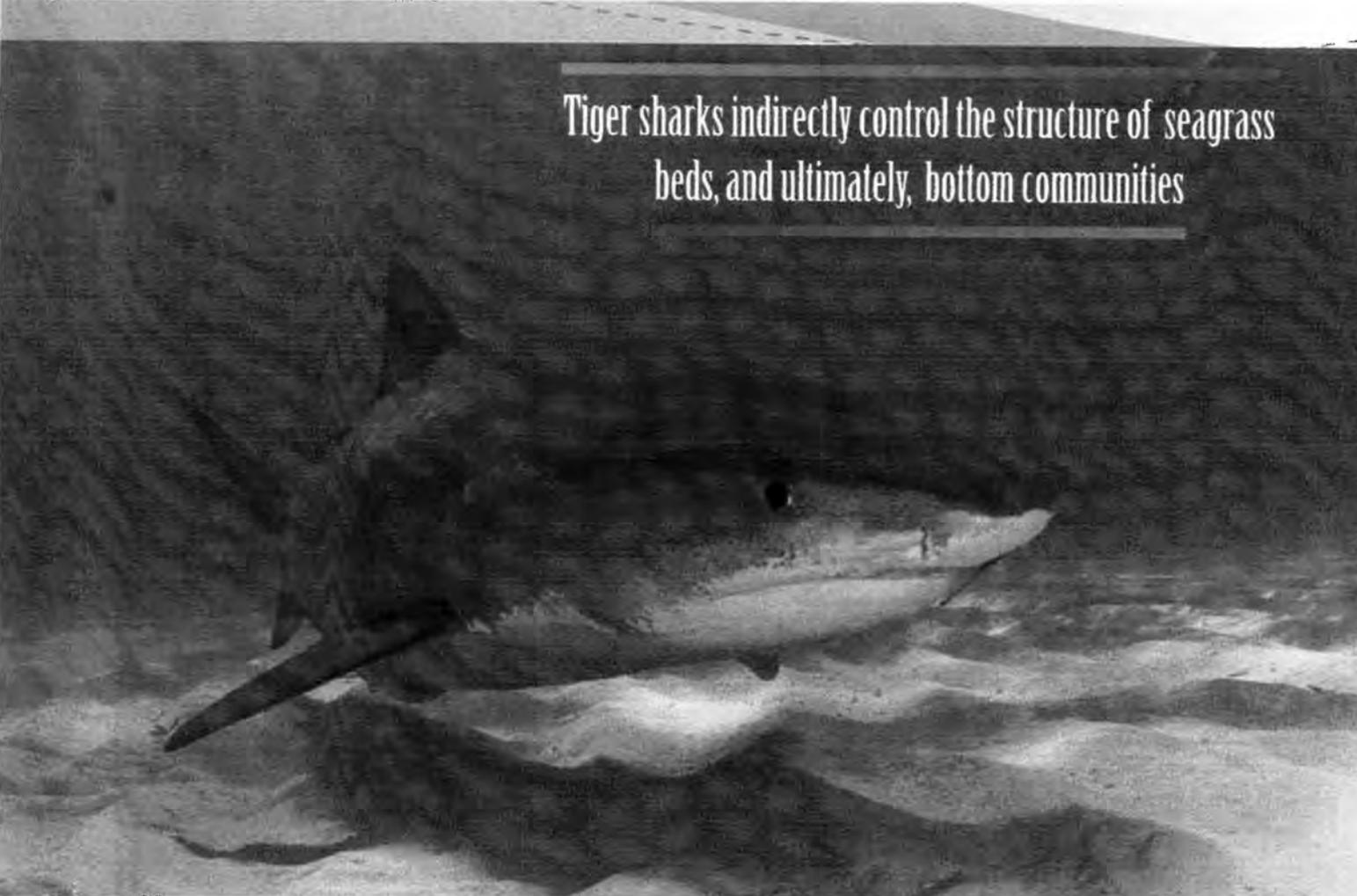


Source: Heithaus et al. (2008)

“Like a swimming pool with a broken filter, a coastal environment without bivalves could choke with blooms of uncontrolled algae.”

Brierley, 2007

Shifts in species abundance are not the only consequence of removing top predators, as habitats also can be altered. Hungry rays roaming the waters and hunting for food have the potential of uprooting seagrass at higher rates, leading to poorer quality nursery grounds for fish.⁴¹ Additionally, bivalves are not only a food source for rays, but a filtration system for the ocean. Bivalves feed on phytoplankton that they filter from the water column, which helps maintain a high level of water quality.⁴² With the decline in scallops, clams and other bivalves, this filtration system is disappearing. As a result, already stressed coastal areas could experience additional uncontrolled algal blooms and dead zones, damaging ocean ecosystems.⁴³



Tiger sharks indirectly control the structure of seagrass beds, and ultimately, bottom communities

Photo © Rob Stewart/Sharkwater

Tiger Sharks in Shark Bay, Australia

Tiger shark intimidation alters the spatial distribution of their prey and structures the dynamics of the seagrass community. In Shark Bay, Australia, dugongs and green sea turtles, which are common tiger shark prey, alter their habitat selection based on the presence of tiger sharks. This creates a trade-off between safety and food quality for the species. Tiger sharks also intimidate and affect the location of species that are relatively rare in their diet, such as bottlenose dolphins and pied cormorants.

Dugongs prefer the nutritious seagrass found in the middle of large grassy patches, but it is very difficult to escape from a tiger shark in these locations. When tiger shark abundance is high, dugongs feed on the lower quality seagrass located near a patch's edge, thereby reducing their risk of predation.⁴⁴ Dugongs alter their distribution on a daily basis depending on the number and location of sharks in the area.⁴⁵ When grazing, dugongs remove the entire seagrass plant, altering the composition and structure of the seagrass meadow, the nutrient content of the plant and the detrital structure of the system.^{46,47} By forcing dugongs to change their habitat selection, tiger sharks keep grazing in check, which in turn keeps the seagrass at relatively constant levels.⁴⁸ Tiger sharks are indirectly controlling the structure of seagrass beds and, ultimately, bottom communities.⁴⁹



Photo © R.P. van Dam

Green sea turtles exhibit a similar response. Green sea turtles feed by removing the top portion of seagrass blades from a specific plot.^{50,51} The continued grazing in these plots produces a high quality diet for the turtles, while stimulating rapid growth of the seagrass blades and an increased rate of nutrient recycling.^{52,53} In the presence of tiger sharks, healthy green sea turtles were found foraging in lower quality habitat that was safer, while sick or injured green sea turtles risked predation to forage in higher quality habitats.⁵⁴ The tiger sharks' influence on green sea turtles was shown to redistribute their grazing patterns, which altered the seagrass community, the chemical composition of the blades and the detrital cycle.⁵⁵

Tiger sharks not only influence the distribution of their prey, but also intimidate species that rarely appear in their diet. Tiger sharks have been shown to directly and indirectly affect the location of bottlenose dolphin and pied cormorant foraging. Although shallow waters are the most productive habitat, bottlenose dolphins and pied cormorants avoid shallow waters when sharks are present.^{56,57} Once sharks leave the area, dolphins and pied cormorants are able to occupy all habitats and freely pursue their food.⁵⁸ Even though tiger sharks do not kill many of these species, the changes they induce in their prey's behavior are equivalent or greater in magnitude than the effects of direct mortality.⁵⁹

The Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystem

Healthy coral reefs provide a complex, three-dimensional habitat that promotes species diversity and abundance.⁶⁰ The loss of sharks in a reef ecosystem, like that of the Caribbean Sea, can trigger a chain reaction that is felt throughout the entire food web, ultimately leading to the degradation of coral reefs on a local or even regional scale.

Since macroalgae compete with coral for settlement on reefs,⁶¹ coral depend on herbivorous fish to graze the algae and provide space for coral to settle and grow.⁶² A reduction in herbivorous fish prevents coral from thriving. The loss of sharks as top predators in the ecosystem allows the number of grouper, which eat other fish species, to increase.⁶³ The groupers in turn reduce the number of herbivores, such as parrotfish, blennies and gobies, in the system. Without these herbivores to eat algae off the coral, algae will take over a reef system.⁶⁴ This overgrowth of macroalgae makes the habitat homogeneous, minimizes the number of

available niches for fish species and decreases the species diversity.⁶⁵ The shifts in abundance following coral decline change the overall species diversity and composition of the entire reef system, which even affect fish species that have no reliance on the live coral.⁶⁶ The removal of sharks from the coral reef ecosystem can ultimately affect the resilience of coral reefs to disturbance, leading to a homogeneous habitat with declines in species diversity and abundance.

The coral reefs of Jamaica demonstrate this shift from a healthy to damaged state. Over the past 30 to 40 years, the species composition in Jamaica has changed drastically. Sharks, snappers, jacks, triggerfish and groupers are now replaced by small herbivorous fish.⁶⁷ Along with this change in species composition, coral abundance has declined from more than 50 percent in the late 70s to less than five percent in the 90s.⁶⁸ Even though the remaining fish are herbivores, they are too small (more than half are below reproductive size) to reverse the shift from a coral to algae-dominated system.⁶⁹ Because coral cannot compete, macroalgae now cover more than 90 percent of the reefs.⁷⁰ Jamaica provides a clear example of the time and scale on which a shift from coral to algae can occur as a result of the loss of sharks from an ecosystem.



The loss of sharks in a reef ecosystem can trigger a chain reaction felt throughout the entire food web

Photo © Rob Stewart/Shutterstock

Sleeper Sharks in Prince William Sound, Alaska

Models of spatial and dietary shifts of harbor seals in response to sleeper sharks provide another example of shark intimidation resulting in behavioral modification of prey species and a change in abundance of commercially important fish species. Even though mortality from sharks is low, harbor seals alter their habitat and foraging in response to predation pressure.⁷¹

Two top prey items for seals in this area are Pacific herring and walleye pollock.⁷² Herring are fatty fish that congregate near the surface of the water and are often widely dispersed.⁷³ Pollock, on the other hand, are found in the deeper waters preferred by sharks, but are larger and have a more continuous distribution, which makes them a more predictable resource for seals.⁷⁴ When sleeper sharks are present, shark intimidation reduces seal foraging in the deeper waters and therefore directly increases the mortality of herring while decreasing the mortality of pollock.⁷⁵ The health of a seal dictates how much risk it is willing to assume. For example, if herring is scarce and the seal's energy state is poor, it is more willing to venture into deeper water in search of pollock.⁷⁶ The removal of sharks changed this response by releasing seals from fear, allowing them to increase their use of deep waters to consume pollock and decrease their foraging of herring on the surface.⁷⁷

The presence of sleeper sharks directly alters the behavior of their prey. These changes can alter the population density or fitness of other species.⁷⁸ Species at lower levels in the food chain may experience declines or even extinction as a result of disruptions resulting from chain reactions in the ecosystem.⁷⁹ When the behavioral responses of prey species are altered, the changes in their foraging patterns can cause cascading impacts throughout the food web.



When the behavioral responses of prey species are altered, the changes in their foraging patterns can cause cascading impacts throughout the food web

Conclusions and Recommendations

Sharks as apex predators can regulate species abundance, distribution and diversity, which in turn can impact the health of marine habitats. Additionally, they provide essential food sources for scavengers and remove the sick and weak from populations of prey species. The decimation of these important shark species can have cascading effects throughout the ecosystems they inhabit, resulting in economically and ecologically devastating consequences.

Unfortunately, sharks have been eliminated from so many parts of the ocean that we now have very few good examples that explicitly document their importance to ocean ecosystems. Nevertheless, as the examples of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and Palmyra show, ecosystems that we consider healthy — the last marine wilderness areas — contain large numbers of sharks. On the other hand, some studies show what the oceans will look like without sharks. Economically important fisheries shut down. Coral reefs shift to algae dominated systems. Seagrass beds in decline. Ecological chain reactions set in motion. Species diversity and abundance declines with the loss of habitats. And the list goes on...

Protecting sharks and allowing their populations to recover is essential to restoring the health of our oceans. The following three actions are essential to making that happen:

Three Key Steps to Protect Sharks:

- Reduce the number of sharks captured in commercial fisheries through improved shark management, including requiring strict species-specific fishing quotas and stock assessments.
- Truly end shark finning by requiring that all sharks be landed whole with their fins still naturally attached.
- Reduce the demand for shark products such as shark fin soup.



Photo © Oceana /Houssine Kaddachi



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Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our teams of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America (Washington, DC; New York, NY; Juneau, AK; Anchorage, AK; Monterey, CA; Portland, OR; St. Petersburg, FL and Boston, MA), Europe (Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium) and South America (Santiago, Chile). More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.Oceana.org.



OCEANA



SEA THE VALUE:

Quantifying the Value of Marine Life to Divers

MARTY SNYDERMAN

SCUBA DIVERS ARE VALUABLE PARTICIPANTS IN ECOTOURISM and provide coastal areas with economic incentives to protect and preserve local marine wildlife and habitats.¹ Similarly, non-coastal regions with large numbers of divers and dive shops also have a vested interest in protecting and restoring the health of marine wildlife. Divers often enjoy a deeper understanding and willingness to protect the oceans because they have experienced them firsthand.

Divers contribute to local economies by paying to dive and vacationing in areas near dive sites. As a group, scuba divers take an estimated 1.7 million dive vacations each year at an average cost of \$2,424 per trip, thus spending more than \$4.1 billion dollars in dive-related vacations annually.² In addition, divers obtain personal value from seeing marine life when they explore the underwater world. Quantifying this value is important, in part, because it provides economic justification for the protection of marine wildlife.

Oceana conducted a study, in collaboration with Duke University, to assess the value of seeing healthy corals, sea turtles and sharks to divers. To assess this economic value, scuba divers were asked the maximum amount of money they were willing to pay, in addition to their normal dive costs, for an increased likelihood of seeing a particular species. In addition, the survey examined the divers' views on their role in marine conservation. Information was obtained from 504 scuba divers from across the United States who responded to a 25 question, web-based survey.

The results of the study show that marine wildlife is of great value to scuba divers. In fact, most divers are willing to pay additional money for a chance to dive with sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs.

Table 1. Average additional amount scuba divers are willing to pay per dive to view wildlife and the total annual value across all six million dives taken in the United States³

VALUE (U.S. \$)	SEA TURTLES	SHARKS	HEALTHY CORALS
Average Per Dive	\$ 29.63	\$ 35.36	\$ 55.35
Total Annual Value	\$ 177.8 million	\$ 212.2 million	\$ 332.1 million

¹ Arin, T. and R.A. Kramer. 2002. Divers' willingness to pay to visit marine sanctuaries: An exploratory study. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 45.

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SEA TURTLES

Many scuba divers enjoy viewing sea turtles in their natural habitat and seek out dive sites with healthy sea turtle populations. Of the scuba divers surveyed, 76 percent were willing to pay more for an increased likelihood of swimming with a sea turtle in the wild, with the average additional amount being \$29.63. Using a conservative estimate that the 1.2 million active U.S. scuba divers take an average of five dive trips per year, the annual value of seeing a sea turtle is \$177.8 million.

Less experienced divers were willing to pay more than experienced divers, presumably because they have had fewer opportunities to interact with sea turtles. Women were willing to pay an average of \$5.82 more than men to see sea turtles.

Sea turtles are protected in many parts of the world, and tourists are often willing to pay to view sea turtles both on land and in the water. As a point of comparison, viewing marine mammals, which are protected in all U.S. waters, has grown to a \$1 billion per year industry operating in 87 countries.⁴

SHARKS

Surveyed divers ranked sharks as the top species they would like to see on a dive. Seventy-one percent of divers were willing to pay more to see sharks, with the average amount being \$35.36 per dive. Again, using a conservative estimate that the 1.2 million active U.S. scuba divers take an average of five dive trips per year, the annual value of seeing a shark is \$212.2 million. The market for the U.S. shark fishery is currently valued at \$19 million.⁶ Clearly, sharks are worth more alive as part of the ecotourism industry than dead as part of the fishing industry.

In addition to their direct value to divers, as top predators sharks help maintain the structure and health of marine ecosystems – the very world divers are willing to pay to see.



SEA TURTLES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION because of many human-caused threats, including commercial fishing gear, pollution and habitat loss. Although all six species of sea turtles in U.S. waters are listed under the Endangered Species Act, many populations continue to decline. For example, loggerhead sea turtle nesting in Florida has declined by nearly 50 percent over the past decade.⁵ The loss of key species, such as sea turtles, can make a dive location less desirable and, therefore, reduce its value as an ecotourism destination.



MORE THAN 100 MILLION SHARKS ARE KILLED annually by fisheries. This has caused some shark populations to decline by as much as 99 percent.⁷ The biggest threat to shark survival is the strong economic incentive to fin sharks for the Asian delicacy of shark fin soup.

⁴ Hoyt, E. 2001. Whale Watching 2001: Worldwide tourism numbers, expenditures, and expanding socioeconomic benefits. International Fund for Animal Welfare, Yarmouth Port, MA, USA, pp. i-vi: 1-158.

⁵ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2008. Long-term monitoring program reveals a continuing loggerhead decline, increases in green turtle and leatherback nesting. http://research.mylwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=27537

⁶ 2006 shark landings values from National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006 Annual Commercial Landing Statistics. http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/commercial/landings/annual_landings.html. This value was then multiplied by 2.27 (Kirkley, J.E., et al. 2006. Reducing capacity in U.S. managed fisheries. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-76, 45p.) to assess the total value to the market.

⁷ Myers, Ransom A., Baum, Julia K., Shepherd, Travis D., Powers, Sean P., and Peterson, Charles H. (2007). Cascading effects of the loss of apex predatory sharks from a coastal ocean. *Science* 315:1846-1850.

HEALTHY CORAL REEFS

Scuba divers are generally willing to spend more to help protect dive sites.⁸ More than 95 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to donate an entrance fee to dive in a protected healthy coral reef ecosystem. While scuba divers ranked corals lower on their list of desired species, they were willing to pay more money to see a healthy coral reef, with the average amount being \$55.35. Healthy coral reefs received the highest value of all the species polled, with the annual value of seeing healthy coral being \$332.1 million. By recognizing the need to conserve coral reefs, scuba divers are acknowledging the importance of a healthy reef ecosystem to all other types of marine wildlife.

Of the 467 respondents willing to pay more to see healthy reefs, nearly three-quarters viewed coral reefs as an essential component of the marine ecosystem. The most common reason given by divers that were not willing to pay to protect coral reefs was that they could not afford to donate (90.5 percent),



indicating they still believe reef conservation is important. Less experienced divers were once again willing to pay more than experienced divers. Women were willing to pay more on average (\$65.08) than men (\$45.64). Higher income respondents also were willing to pay higher entrance fees to dive in protected areas.



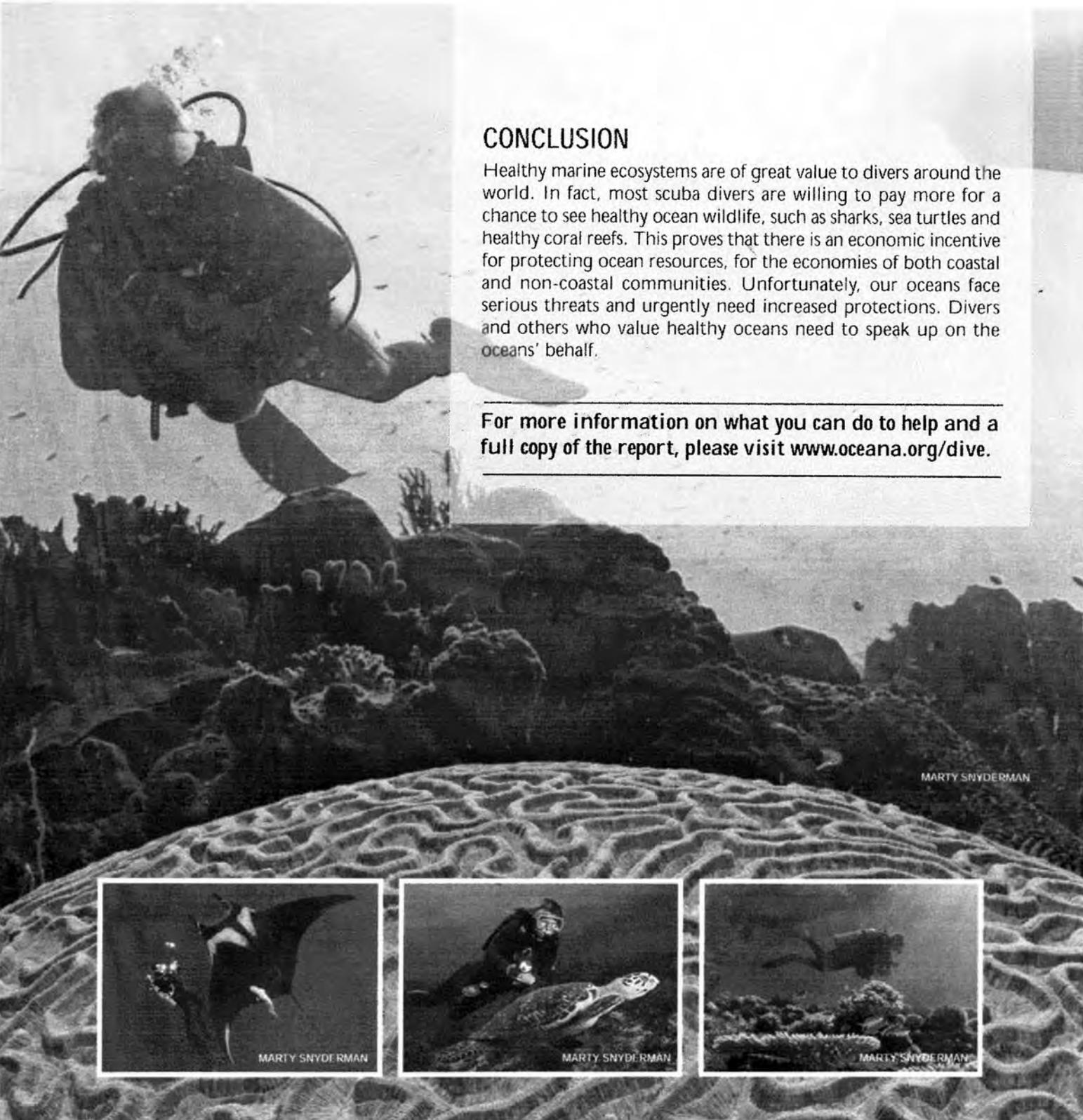
DIVERS' ROLE IN CONSERVATION

Since most divers believe that the quality of a dive is affected by the amount and variety of species available, scuba divers have a vested interest in conserving the oceans. More than 82 percent of the survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that divers play an active role in ocean conservation.

When asked if the U.S. government sufficiently protects its dive sites, most divers said no. Scuba

divers saw pollution as the most damaging threat to ocean health, followed by unsustainable fishing, loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity and, finally, climate change. These are all areas where divers feel the U.S. should improve ocean conservation and management to help better protect marine habitats.

⁸ Depondt, F. and E. Green. 2006. Diving user fees and the financial sustainability of marine protected areas: Opportunities and impediments. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 49:188-202.



CONCLUSION

Healthy marine ecosystems are of great value to divers around the world. In fact, most scuba divers are willing to pay more for a chance to see healthy ocean wildlife, such as sharks, sea turtles and healthy coral reefs. This proves that there is an economic incentive for protecting ocean resources, for the economies of both coastal and non-coastal communities. Unfortunately, our oceans face serious threats and urgently need increased protections. Divers and others who value healthy oceans need to speak up on the oceans' behalf.

For more information on what you can do to help and a full copy of the report, please visit www.oceana.org/dive.

MARTY SNYDERMAN



Oceana campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Our teams of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates win specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and to prevent the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine mammals and other sea life. Global in scope and dedicated to conservation, Oceana has campaigners based in North America (Washington, DC; New York, NY; Juneau, AK; Anchorage, AK; Monterey, CA; Portland, OR; St. Petersburg, FL and Boston, MA), Europe (Madrid, Spain; Brussels, Belgium) and South America (Santiago, Chile). More than 300,000 members and e-activists in over 150 countries have already joined Oceana. For more information, please visit www.Oceana.org.

olivia

From: stephaniemendiola@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:35 PM
To: Olivia Palcios; Mary Maravilla
Subject: TESTIMONY, B44 - Fw: Bill No. 44-31

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

From: "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 15:35:57 +1000
To: Matt D<mmdchar@gmail.com>; <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Cc: BJ Cruz<senadotbjcruz@aol.com>; Stephanie Mendiola<stephaniemendiola@gmail.com>; Frank Aguon, III<frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31

Dear Mr. Durden,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Rory J. Respicio
Senator

Majority Leader and Chairperson
Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Thirty-First Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

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From: Matt D <mmdchar@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 16:59:14 -0500
To: Rory Respicio <roryforquam@gmail.com>, <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Subject: Bill No. 44-31

The Honorable Vice Speaker BJ Cruz and the Honorable Majority Leader and Natural Resources Committee Chair Senator Rory Respicio,

I understand that each of you introduced Bill No. 44-31 earlier this month, which would prohibit the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts. I write today in support of the bill.

As you each know, shark species worldwide are highly vulnerable to overfishing and many species are facing extinction due to the high demand for their fins for the Asian delicacy shark fin soup. Guam is a paradise for sharks and the creation of safe havens for sharks is absolutely necessary for their future survival.

Good luck with the bill throughout the legislative process, and keep up the great work on behalf of wildlife! Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Matt Durden
Reston, Virginia



olivia

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Subject: TESTIMONY, B44 - Fw: Bill No. 44-31

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Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 15:35:57 +1000
To: Matt D<mmdchar@gmail.com>; <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Cc: BJ Cruz<senadotbjcruz@aol.com>; Stephanie Mendiola<stephaniemendiola@gmail.com>; Frank Aguon, III<frankaguon23@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31

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Rory J. Respicio
Senator

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From: Matt D <mmdchar@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 16:59:14 -0500

To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>

Subject: Bill No. 44-31

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Good luck with the bill throughout the legislative process, and keep up the great work on behalf of wildlife! Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Matt Durden
Reston, Virginia

By passing Bill 44-31 with no amendments, you will be making a positive step toward the supply-side of the equation. Without external, legal controls and protections, the slaughter will continue for economic reasons until there are too few left to harvest or until these species are extinct.

Thank you very sincerely for your concern and support!

Mark Robison

REF: "Trophic cascades across ecosystems", Tiffany M. Knight, Michael W. McCoy, Jonathan M. Chase, Krista A. McCoy & Robert D. Holt
Patterns and ecosystem consequences of shark declines in the ocean. Ferretti F, Worm B, Britten GL, Heithaus MR, Lotze HK.
Cascading top-down effects of changing oceanic predator abundances. Baum JK, Worm B.
Cascading Effects of the Loss of Apex Predatory Sharks from a Coastal Ocean," Ransom Myers

Mark Robison

President

Emerald Communications, Inc.

Manufacturer's Representatives

4122 Chattahoochee Trace

Suite 205

Duluth, GA 30097

770.992.3824 p

770.643.6952 f

770.330.8372 c

Reply to: markr@vidreps.com

olivia

From: stephaniemendiola@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:35 PM
To: Olivia Palcios; Mary Maravilla
Subject: TESTIMONY, B44 - Fw: Bill No. 44-31

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2011 15:35:57 +1000
To: Matt D<mmdchar@gmail.com>; <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>
Cc: BJ Cruz<senadotbjcruz@aol.com>; Stephanie Mendiola<stephaniemendiola@gmail.com>; Frank Aguon, III<frankaguon23@gmail.com>
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Senator

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From: Matt D <mmdchar@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2011 16:59:14 -0500

To: Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>

Subject: Bill No. 44-31

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Good luck with the bill throughout the legislative process, and keep up the great work on behalf of wildlife! Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Matt Durden
Reston, Virginia



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:41 AM
To: Patrizia Scally
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:40 AM, Patrizia Scally <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Patrizia Scally

Houston, TX

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:21 AM
To: Jim Miller
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Lee Webber; Jim Miller; <senadotbjcruz@gmail.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: MDA Support for Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

Dear Jim and MDA family,

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 9:09 AM, "Jim Miller" <jim@mdaguam.com> wrote:

Mike,

Thank for keeping us informed on Bill No. 44-31 and for inviting us to attend Tuesday's public hearing. This is an important issue, and we applaud the Senator's efforts.

Although nether Lee nor I will be able to attend in person, I have attached a letter of support.

Kindest Regards,

 Jim Miller

General Manager

Micronesia Divers Association, Inc.

671-472-6324 office

671-483-6321 cell

<MDA Support 44-31.pdf>

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:41 AM
To: lisa salazar
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:32 AM, lisa salazar <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

~~lisa salazar~~

Foster City, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition. 

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:41 AM
To: june bullied
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:22 AM, june bullied <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

june bullied

toronto, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill no 44-31 to end the shark fin trade in guam](https://www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam).

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:45 AM
To: Cynthia Bergstein
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:03 AM, Cynthia Bergstein <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Cynthia Bergstein

Woodcliff Lake, NJ

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:45 AM
To: nicolai gottlieb
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:23 AM, nicolai gottlieb <mail@change.org> wrote:

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Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

 nicolai gottlieb

dyssegaard, Denmark

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:37 AM
To: Rebecca Tripp
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 8:02 AM, Rebecca Tripp <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Rebecca Tripp

Searsport, ME

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:45 AM
To: Ginamarie Colorio
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:50 AM, Ginamarie Colorio <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

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Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Ginamarie Colorio

Minneapolis, MN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:44 AM
To: Pia Mustonen
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:40 AM, Pia Mustonen <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

 Pia Mustonen

Tampere, Finland

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Elizabeth Yeatts
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 8:04 AM, Elizabeth Yeatts <snowmama2002@hotmail.com> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 25, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

I am asking you to please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

- Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

- Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.
- **The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade.** Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!
- Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!
- The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.
- Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

I currently live in California USA and deeply care about the health of the world's oceans. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Yeatts

Honorable Rory J. Respicio

Majority Leader

Suite 302 155 Hesler St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 25, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam. Our names are Stephen Matadobra and Leigh Kroeger, residing on O'ahu, Hawaii. We are both students in marine science, divers and researchers.

The increasing pressures placed within the shark's environment could be significantly lessened. Both of us are immersed in shark and turtle conservation and understand the necessity of this ban to go into effect; further recovery initiatives would follow.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments. I have been to Guam multiple times as it is a location that is very memorable to my family. Not only was my sister born here but my parents met here. I learned how to scuba dive in Guam, which I can honestly say contributed to my degree in Marine Biology. We are seeing decreasing shark populations worldwide because of practices like shark finning. I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31, not only for the sharks, but for Guam itself to make an example in the Pacific that can be seen globally. We both one day hope to travel this world and one without sharks would be a travesty.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen M and Leigh K
O'ahu, Hawaii USA

RECEIVED
2010
1/25

January 25, 2010

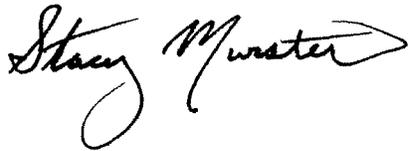
Dear Senator Respicio:

My name is Stacy Mursten and I live in Buffalo, New York. Shark Conservation is the most important thing in the world to me. Sharks are beautiful majestic, sentient creatures and they're also extremely vital to the health of our oceans, to our very planet, to us. It is impertinent that the slaughter of sharks comes to end before it's too late.

I want to thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, banning the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam. As a beautiful Pacific Island surrounded by the treasures of the ocean every day, I am sure you'd want to do your part to protect the ocean's top predator that is now so threatened.

I urge you to pass Bill No. 44-31 without a second thought. Aside from the negative effects shark finning has on the environment, shark finning is cruel, inhumane, and wasteful. Now more than ever it is crucial to pass this Bill and I truly hope you do.

Sincerely,
Stacy Mursten
21 Sanders Rd
Buffalo, NY 14216



RECEIVED
1/27/10
4

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 31, 2011

Dear Senator Respicio:

My name is Hilary Goodwin and work for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, DC. I have been scuba diving since I was 13 and I am passionate about shark conservation. I hope to visit Guam in the next five years to see your beautiful marine resources, especially sharks. I implore you to pass Bill 44-31 without any amendments. The brutal shark fin trade is extremely profitable and many countries are allowing foreigners to fish out the sharks in the ecosystem. Sharks are top predators and are crucial to maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem. Our oceans are stressed by multiple factors such as pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and overfishing. Removing sharks from the ecosystem has devastating consequences and Bill 44-31 would help protect the shark population around Guam from the brutal practice of shark finning.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goodwin

Darris B. Nelson
Post Office Box 577
Valley Ford CA 94972

January 25, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Bill No 44-31 Shark Fin ban

Dear Senator Respicio:

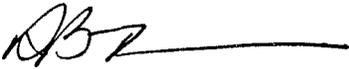
Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31, that will ban the sale and possession of shark fins on Guam.

I live on the Northern California coast and walk the beach several times a week. I am also a kayaker and just like thousands of people in this area I take special trips out just to witness sharks in their natural environment. I have a dream of visiting Guam and kayaking the beautiful waters someday in my future.

In my research I find that the demand for shark fin soup has driven uncontrollable over fishing of sharks. I understand that it is estimated that upwards of 73 million sharks are being killed in Hong Kong each year for the shark fin trade. Shark Fin Soup is the chief cause of the staggering decline in shark populations worldwide. One third of all pelagic sharks are threatened with extinction, and half of the shark species targeted by commercial fisheries are threatened. Many shark populations have declined dramatically over the past thirty years, some by as much as 99%.

I wholly support Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments. Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns.

Yours truly,



Darris B. Nelson

RECEIVED
RJR/11

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Brian Weitz
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support for Bill No. 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 7:01 AM, Brian Weitz <brian_weitz@hotmail.com> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910

January 30, 2011

Dear Senator Respicio,

My name is Brian Weitz and I am a resident of Washington DC. I am writing to express my support of Bill No. 44-31. Due to the annual slaughter of millions of sharks each year, often for their fins, many species are now seriously threatened or endangered. As a former ocean policy analyst for the United States Senate with a masters degree in Environmental Policy, I know how important sharks are to both the ecosystem and the economy, and they are much more valuable alive than dead. In addition, I am an avid scuba diver and sharks are far and away the main attraction for me in choosing a dive vacation destination. It is my hope that you will recognize how important the survival of sharks is, and how improved protection is drastically necessary. Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments.

Sincerely,
Brian Weitz
Washington, DC



Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 • www.awionline.org
 telephone: (202) 337-2332 • facsimile: (202) 446-2131

January 28, 2011

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Suite 302
 155 Hesler St.
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Fax: (671) 472-3547
 e-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com

SENT BY FAX AND EMAIL

Dear Senator Respicio:

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) submits the following testimony in support of Bill No. 44-31, which prohibits the importation, possession and sale of shark fins and ray parts in Guam. On behalf of AWI and its tens of thousands of members, many of whom value Guam as a tourist and diving destination, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you and Vice Speaker BJ Cruz for introducing this extremely important legislation.

As you know, shark species worldwide are highly vulnerable to overfishing and many species are facing extinction due to the high demand for their fins for the Asian delicacy shark fin soup. We commend you for your efforts to stop the inhumane practice of shark finning and to keep shark fins out of Guam. As you are likely aware, in addition to their fins, sharks are also sought after for their meat, liver, oil, teeth and cartilage. We encourage you to also ban the possession of these products in Guam as well. This would set an amazing precedent and would truly demonstrate Guam's commitment to shark conservation.

It's tragic to think that sharks have roamed the oceans for over 400 million years and we are now at risk of losing some of these amazing and biologically critical species forever. Shark safe havens throughout the world, where sharks can live and reproduce unmolested, are an absolute necessity for the species' future survival. We request that, in addition to a shark fin ban, you also follow the lead of Palau, Honduras and the Maldives and declare Guam's waters a shark sanctuary by banning all commercial shark fishing. The waters surrounding Guam contain a rich array of marine life, including sharks and rays, and this bill will help ensure that these animals are protected from such threats.

As you are aware, on January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Shark Conservation Act, which prohibits the removal and transfer of shark fins in U.S. waters. If

passed, your bill will join that of Hawai'i and CNMI in extending the protections of the federal law. Such a farsighted and progressive stance is to be commended.

We look forward to seeing this bill become law and offer our assistance in making this a reality.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Susan Millward.

Susan Millward

Executive Director

This legislation is particularly important to me having lived on Guam with my US Navy husband for two years in 2006-8. I learned to dive in Guam and gained an appreciation of sharks (including several very close encounters!) and the other unique wildlife there.

Please work to create a marine sanctuary for sharks and other sea creatures around the whole of Guam. What an example to the region that would be!

With much appreciation.

Susan

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:40 AM
To: gemma lindsay
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:52 AM, gemma lindsay <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

gemma lindsay

Honiton, United Kingdom

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Mary Patricia Emerson
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 2:03 AM, Mary Patricia Emerson <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

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Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Mary Patricia Emerson

Ann Arbor, MI

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Jason J Green
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 2:01 AM, Jason J Green <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Jason J Green

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:47 AM
To: Cynthia Henley
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:31 AM, Cynthia Henley <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Cynthia Henley

Houston, TX

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:33 AM
To: Jonathan Balcombe
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: please ban shark-finning

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 6:43 AM, "Jonathan Balcombe" <pumilla@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear Honorable Rory J. Respicio,

I am a biologist and author of books on animal behavior and animal protection. I am writing to please urge you to support the passage of Bill 44-31 with no amendments, to ban the sale and possession of shark fins. This measure will significantly advance the protection of sharks from the deplorable practice of finning. Not only is shark finning cruel, it is utterly unnecessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this pressing matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan Balcombe, PhD
13518 Ansel Terrace
Germantown, MD 20874
USA
Tel: + 301-916-4114
Cell: + 301-466-2982
pumilla@verizon.net
www.jonathanbalcombe.com

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:36 AM
To: tortiller jean luc
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 8:02 AM, tortiller jean luc <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

tortiller jean luc

n, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:35 AM
To: David Kaliner
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 8:40 AM, David Kaliner <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

David Kaliner

Las Vegas, NV

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:33 AM
To: Paul Anes
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: support finning legislation

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 6:49 AM, Paul Anes <panes1@san.rr.com> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Sir my name is Doc Anes, I live in San Diego California, USA.
I also own a company called San Diego Shark Diving Expeditions, Inc.
We take people diving with sharks all over the world. I have seen a steady decline in the numbers of sharks we've been able to dive with and also the sharks we are now seeing are much smaller than before.

My business has been adversely affected by the rampant "shark finning" occurring all across the Pacific. Many species especially the Blue Sharks migrate trans-oceanically. The Blue Shark population has been decimated to the point where we can no longer offer Blue Shark diving trips off San Diego because there are not enough Blue Sharks left to pull off successful trips.

I am asking you to please pass **Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments.**

Besides the above reason there are others such as:

- Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

- Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.
- **The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade.** Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!
- Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!
- The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.
- Sharks are far more valuable alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy! This was proven to be the case for the Bahamas Islands. Shark diving there generates millions of US dollars in shark diving tourism.

Sincerely yours,

Doc Anes

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:35 AM
To: Laily Sholeh
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 5:46 AM, Laily Sholeh <laily.sholeh@gmail.com> wrote:

**Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910**

January 30, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

The preservation of our ecosystem is priceless and to sacrifice it for the money and soup that is created at the expense of sharks is logically ridiculous. Forget feelings and emotional attachment to animals, this doesn't make any practical sense. As if global warming and pollution weren't bad enough threats to the future generations, we're now purposely destroying wildlife that keeps the oceans stable just to garner capital.

This isn't the 14th century where we don't know the repercussions of our actions. We know exactly what will happen if we keep killing sharks for the \$100 we make off a bowl of soup. It's imperative that the world realize what is happening and that countries with the ability to stop this destruction take the initiative to do so.

I am a student in Toronto, Canada who is passionate about making smart decisions for the sake of humanity and its accomplishments.

Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Sincerely yours,

Laily Sholeh

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:36 AM
To: Pierrick Barrier
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 8:02 AM, Pierrick Barrier <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Pierrick Barrier

St.Maixent, France

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:35 AM
To: WORDSTOGO/Harriet
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 5:48 AM, "WORDSTOGO/Harriet" <her@wordstogo.com> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 30, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

As a recreational scuba diver, I am particularly interested in keeping the oceans healthy and in balance.

Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.

The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade. Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for

their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!

Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!

The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.

Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

Sincerely yours,
Harriet Rhodes

WORDS TO GO®

255 Greenwich Ave., 2nd Floor
Greenwich, CT 06830

Tel: (203) 661-1711

Fax: (203) 629-3921

e-mail: her@wordstogo.com

Monday - Friday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm ET

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Vince Kelly
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Bill 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 6:08 AM, Vince Kelly <aquaman205@aol.com> wrote:

My name is Vince Kelly I live in Palos Hills IL just outside of Chicago. I will spare you the lengthy biological explanation. I am sure you are aware of the importance of sharks to the Oceans. They are being pushed to extinction for soup. By greedy men who will bleed the Oceans dry with no thought of the ramifications to others. I pay big money to go to Guam just for the chance of seeing them.

Please join the others who have taken this necessary step. Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with NO amendments!

Thank you so much for your time

Sincerely

Vince Kelly

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Sim&Herb
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: support of bill 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 5:50 AM, "Sim&Herb" <herbert.kollmann@gmx.at> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 30, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

As a Marine Biologist, passionate diver and Diving Instructor, currently living in Belize Central America, I support the bill 44-31 because sharks are mainly due to finning worldwide under pressure. Sharks have a vital function in the ecology of underwater environments and reefs. They will be a reliable source of income as they attract divers and tourists throughout the world. In times when sharks get fewer and lots of shark species are at the brink of extinction diving tourists value places with healthy shark populations even more. Please take the step to protect sharks, by passing Bill 44-31 with no amendments! I know that the fishery community is arguing that it is their livelihood however the shark fishing and finning is not sustainable, so in the end they won't just rob themselves of their future, but all people who might have their future income from tourism.

Sincerely yours,
Herbert Kollmann

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Yvonne
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re:

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 8:49 AM, "Yvonne" <dancingdog@shaw.ca> wrote:

Greetings,

My name is Yvonne and I live in Vancouver, Canada.

There are many beneficial reasons to protect Guam's sharks.

First of all, most sharks are an endangered species, and we need to realize that if we dont stop killing over **100 MILLION** sharks a year, thats **9000** sharks every HOUR! It wont be long before we dont have any left. And then it wont just be sharks the are extinct, our whole oceans will be. Since they are at the top of the food chain, every species underneath it will be affected or wiped out. Us as humans are causing too much pain to our marine eco system and sharks are the largest part of it. Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades. Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade. Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheries and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. The sharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!
THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS SLAUGHTER THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES.

PLEASE pass Bill No. 44-31 with no amendments

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Sim
Cc: <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: support of bill 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 5:54 AM, "Sim" <simone.gareis@gmx.at> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 30, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

I am a passionate diver and Diving Instructor, currently living in Belize Central America, I support the bill 44-31 because sharks are mainly due to finning worldwide under pressure. Sharks have a vital function in the ecology of underwater environments and reefs. They will be a reliable source of income as they attract divers and tourists throughout the world. In times when sharks get fewer and lots of shark species are at the brink of extinction diving tourists value places with healthy shark populations even more. **Please take the step to protect sharks, by passing Bill 44-31 with no amendments!** I know that the fishery community is arguing that it is their livelihood however the shark fishing and finning is not sustainable, so in the end they won't just rob themselves of their future, but all people who might have their future income from tourism. Right at the moment we are facing similar discussions here in Belize and the Mesoamerican Barrie Reef is under constant pressure of overfishing as well. So we know about the difficulty of making those decisions.

Sincerely yours,
Simone Gareis

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:33 AM
To: Jason Fondis
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Bill No. 44-31

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 6:19 AM, Jason Fondis <fondisontour@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio

I am writing to emlore you to bring to attention the importance of putting in place the Bill No. 44-31, and to please pass it with no amendments, to protect the sharks in the waters around Guam.

The reason s being:-

Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 millions years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.

The depletion of sharks is driven by the shark fin trade. Sharks formerly caught as bycatch of other fisheri and released alive, are now landed just for their fins and their carcasses are dumped overboard. Thesharks' fins are used solely as an ingredient in expensive soup!

Some 73 million sharks will be slaughtered this year for their fins. That averages out to more than 6 million per month, more than 217,000 per day, around 9,000 per hour!

The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has determined that 1/3 of all shark species are "near threatened" or "threatened with extinction". If the slaughter continues, sharks may go the way of the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and other species that humans have hunted to extinction.

Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing sour of revenue to Guam's local economy.

Please take on the cause for the conservation of Sharks and be a voice for them.

Your sincerely

Jason Fondis

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Paul
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 5:57 AM, Paul <paul@mischenko.net> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 30, 2010

Dear Senator Respicio:

Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Sharks have been the ocean's apex predators for 400 million years. The removal of millions of sharks has already disrupted the ocean ecosystem and is resulting in tropic cascades.

Sharks are slow growing, mature late, produce few young, and cannot reproduce fast enough to replace their populations at the current rate of depletion.

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Sharks are far more value alive. They are the #1 attraction for divers. Alive, sharks generate a continuing source of revenue to Guam's local economy!

Please pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Sincerely yours,

Paul Mischenko,

Avid scuba diver.

New York, USA

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:41 AM
To: Annemieke Antonisen
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:22 AM, Annemieke Antonisen <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Annemieke Antonisen

Den Haag, Netherlands

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:33 AM
To: Theresa Karasek
Cc: mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com; Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Please Pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2011, at 6:39 AM, Theresa Karasek <theresakarasek@gmail.com> wrote:

Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Suite 302
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

January 30, 2011

Dear Senator Respicio:

I am writing you to urge you to pass Bill 44-31 to ban the sale and possession of shark fins in Guam. I am a shark conservationist from California, with a graduate degree in marine ecology and management, and I have been in favor of ending the shark fin trade for many years.

Though I understand that much of Guam's fishing community opposes the bill, I urge you to consider the long-term sustainability and health of Guam's waters and economy. Sharks are top predators in the ocean, vital to the health of the ecosystem. Unlike other fish, they are slow-growing and reproduce slowly. At the current rate of depletion, many shark species are in danger of becoming extinct.

Shark finning comprises the bulk of the global shark trade. Sharks' fins are cut off and the rest of the body is dumped back into the ocean to die. Around 73 million sharks are killed per year just for their fins, and the rest of the animal is wasted.

Guam can help bring an end to the shark fin trade, saving sharks and helping their own economy in the process. Shark diving is a lucrative industry that can help bring tourism and income to Guam, but only if its sharks are preserved. Rather than allowing Guam's shark population to be driven to extinction, please preserve its sharks to ensure a continuous source of revenue for Guam and to protect the health of its oceans. Please, pass Bill 44-31 with no amendments.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Theresa Karasek

--

314-601-4587

Master of Environmental Science and Management
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
University of California, Santa Barbara

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:44 AM
To: Heather Himes
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:32 AM, Heather Himes <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

~~Heather Himes~~

New York, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Graciela Patrón Mederos
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:03 AM, Graciela Patrón Mederos <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

~~Graciela Patrón Mederos~~

León, Spain

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Jennifer Bates
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:13 AM, Jennifer Bates <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Jennifer Bates

Chevy Chase, MD

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition. 

olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Ellen Ashworth
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:31 AM, Ellen Ashworth <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

~~Ellen Ashworth~~

mold, United Kingdom

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Jonathan DiMartino
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:23 AM, Jonathan DiMartino <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Jonathan DiMartino

Atlanta, GA

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Victoria Andreo
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 2:02 AM, Victoria Andreo <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Victoria Andreo

Tolland, CT

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Caitlyn Murphy
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:22 AM, Caitlyn Murphy <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Caitlyn Murphy

Milford, NH

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:47 AM
To: Tracy Clack
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:52 AM, Tracy Clack <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

~~Tracy Clack~~

Santa Fe, NM

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Katherine Kirk
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:34 AM, Katherine Kirk <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Katherine Kirk

e, United Kingdom

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:44 AM
To: Tracy Marafiote
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:03 AM, Tracy Marafiote <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Tracy Marafiote

Fredonia, NY

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: David Romportl
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

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Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:10 AM, David Romportl <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

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Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

David Romportl

St Louis Park, MN

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To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Maria F.
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 2:22 AM, "Maria F." <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Maria F.

Verona, Italy

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on [Change.org](https://www.change.org), viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:43 AM
To: David Romportl
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:10 AM, David Romportl <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

David Romportl

St Louis Park, MN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:40 AM
To: Angie Starling
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 6:40 AM, Angie Starling <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Angie Starling

Hickory, NC

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



olivia

From: Rory J. Respicio [roryforguam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:44 AM
To: Jason Touleyrou
Cc: Olivia Palacios
Subject: Re: Support Bill No. 44-31 - End the Shark Fin Trade

Thank you for your email regarding Bill 44-31. Vice Speaker BJ Cruz is the main sponsor this bill. I am this bill's co-sponsor. The Vice Speaker and I, as you and countless others, believe the important role sharks have in balancing our ocean's ecosystem, and without these natural born predators roaming freely in our open ocean, there will be far-reaching cascading effects.

The public hearing for Bill 44-31 is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:30PM at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. Your email will serve as written testimony; will be made a part of the public hearing; and thus will be entered into the legislative record. Again, thank you for your participation in the legislative process relative to Bill 44-31.

Rory

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2011, at 7:02 AM, Jason Touleyrou <mail@change.org> wrote:

Dear Senator Respicio,

Thank you for introducing Bill No. 44-31. I am writing you in support for this bill to make it illegal to possess or sell shark fins and manta parts in Guam.

Almost one-third of all shark species are threatened or nearly threatened with extinction. Top predators are vital to the delicate balance of the ecosystem and the loss of these predators would be devastating to the ocean.

Shark finning is not only cruel but also wasteful. After a fin is hacked off, the shark is often tossed back into the water to die. Banning the shark trade in Guam will save thousands of sharks and end needless suffering. With the ban, shark fins and manta parts will no longer be profitable in Guam.

As you know, the measure will also protect rays. Manta rays, specifically, are hunted for their gill rakes. With a low reproduction rate, manta rays are extremely vulnerable.

Though the local fishing industry opposes the bill, I urge you to support the important measure. The Federal Shark Conservation Act already makes it illegal for shark finning, and Bill No. 44-31 will not affect local fisheries as some think.

Please pass Bill No. 44-31 with no weakening amendments.

Thank you.

Jason Touleyrou

Warren, MI

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/support_bill_no_44-31_to_end_the_shark_fin_trade_in_guam.

To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.





COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 31st Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • www.guamlegislature.com
E-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

Senator
Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAJORITY LEADER

Senator
Judith P. Guthertz
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASST. MAJORITY LEADER

MAJORITY
MEMBERS:

Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat

Vice Speaker
Benjamin J. F. Cruz

Senator
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY
MAJORITY WHIP

Senator
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
ASST. MAJORITY WHIP

Senator
Thomas C. Ada

Senator
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

Senator
vicente c. pangelinan

MINORITY
MEMBERS:

Senator
Aline A. Yamashita
ASST. MINORITY LEADER

Senator
Christopher M. Duenas

February 9, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE
(671) 472-2825

Ms. Benita Manglona
Acting Director
Bureau of Budget & management Research
P.O. Box 2950
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Request for Fiscal Note –
Bill Nos. 27-31(COR) through 28-31(COR) and 30-31(COR) through 53-31(COR)

Hafa Adai Ms. Manglona:

Transmitted herewith is a listing of *I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan's* most recently introduced bills. Pursuant to 2 GCA §9103, I respectfully request the preparation of fiscal notes for the referenced bills.

Si Yu'os ma'åse' for your attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

Rory J. Respicio

Attachments

Cc: Clerk of the Legislature

2011 FEB 10 10:14 AM

Rec'd: Jackie
2/10/11 8:57am

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

FEB-09-2011 05:26 PM WED

FAX NUMBER : 4772240
 NAME : GNF

NAME/NUMBER : 4722825
 PAGE : 9
 START TIME : FEB-09-2011 05:24PM WED
 ELAPSED TIME : 01'36"
 MODE : STD BCM
 RESULTS : [O.K]

I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Bill Log Sheet
January 25, 2011
 Page 1 of 1

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Title	Date Introduced	Date Referred	120 Day Deadline	Committee Referred	Public Hearing Date	Date Committee Report Filed	Status (Date) Passed? Failed? Vetoed? Overridden? Public Law?
50-31 (COR)	R. J. Respicio.	AN ACT TO REPEAL TITLE 3 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED CHAPTER 10 § 10129, "EARLY VOTING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY."	1/25/11 1:00 p.m.	1/26/11		Committee on Health & Human Services Senior Citizens. Economic Development and Election Reform			

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES

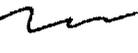


I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio 

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 1, 2010, 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Hafa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 1, 2010**, beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room. This hearing is scheduled to receive public testimony on the following:

9:00 AM

- The executive appointment of **Ms. Leah Beth Naholowaa** to serve as the **Director** of the **Department of Labor**;
- The executive appointment of **Ms. Mariquita Flores Taitague** to serve as the **Director** of the **Department of Agriculture**; and
- **Bill No. 37-31 (COR)** – J.P. Guthertz, DPA - "An act to repeal and reenact Section 12 of Chapter III, Part II, Department of Public Health and Social Services, of Public Law 30-196 relative to funding for the government of Guam Animal Shelter, currently operated by the Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), Inc."

The Committee will recess; then will reconvene at **5:30 PM** to receive public testimony on the following:

- **Bill No. 44-31 (COR)** – B.J.F. Cruz – "An act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.1 and §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated."

For more information, please contact our office at 472-7679. I look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

cc: Clerk of the Legislature
MIS
Sergeant-At-Arms

Rory Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

1st Notice of Public Hearing: Feb 2nd, 9:30am/5:30pm

8 messages

Senator Rory J. Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 5:14 PM

To: senator@senatorbjcruz.com, senatormabini@gmail.com, "Adolpho B. Palacios" <senabpalacios@gmail.com>, "Aline A. Yamashita" <aline4families@gmail.com>, "Christopher M. Duenas" <duenasenator@gmail.com>, "Dennis G. Rodriguez" <senatordrodriguez@gmail.com>, "Frank F. Blas, Jr." <frank.blasjr@gmail.com>, "Judith P. Guthertz" <judiguthertz@pticom.com>, "Judith T. Won Pat" <info@judiwonpat.com>, Mana Silva Taijeron <senatormana@gmail.com>, "Thomas C. Ada" <tom@senatorada.org>, Tina Rose Muna Barnes <tinamunabarnes@gmail.com>, "V. Anthony Ada" <senatortonyada@guamlegislature.org>, vicente 'ben' pangelinan <senbenp@guam.net>

Cc: clerks@guamlegislature.org, sgtarms@guamlegislature.org, mis@guamlegislature.org

Bcc: santos.duenas@gmail.com, mcarlson@ite.net, leonguerrero.angela@gmail.com, cherbert.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com, doc.wytenbachsantos@gmail.com, gatanleslie@gmail.com, jmesngon.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com, joshua.tenorio@senatorbjcruz.com, juliette@senatorada.org, laurielisla@gmail.com, maryfejeran@gmail.com, peterlg@gmail.com, pjtcruz@yahoo.com, rob.tupaz@gmail.com, rsmuna45@gmail.com, tanya4families@gmail.com, Chelsa Muna-Brecht <cmunabrecht@guamlegislature.org>, Ed LeonGuerrero <edleonguerrero@gmail.com>, Elaine Tajalle <etajalle@guamlegislature.org>, Lisa Cipollone <cipo@guamlegislature.org>, olivia palacios <oliviampalacios@gmail.com>, Therese C Santos <chechsantos@gmail.com>, Rennae Perez <rennae@guamlegislature.org>, rtaitague@guamlegislature.org, mpangelinan@guamlegislature.org, Nicole Santos <nsantos@senatorada.org>, jcamacho@senatorada.org, cyrus@senatorada.org, coy@senatorada.org, lya.mesa@senatorbjcruz.com, chris.carillo@senatorbjcruz.com, garrett.duenas@senatorbjcruz.com, Mike Lidia <mike.lidia@senatorbjcruz.com>, carlos.pangelinan@senatorbjcruz.com, Toby Castro <tcastro@guam.net>, aokada@guamlegislature.org, smendiola@guamlegislature.org, Selina Onedera-Salas <sonedera-salas@guamlegislature.org>, "alerta.jermaine" <alerta.jermaine@gmail.com>, rlikeke05@gmail.com, jane@guam.net, elainemcdonald55@yahoo.com, edpocaigne@judiwonpat.com, jamespcastro@gmail.com, markaflogue@gmail.com, sayama01@yahoo.com, bruce.lloyd.media@gmail.com, jenniferdulla@gmail.com, Julian Janssen <julian.c.janssen@gmail.com>, "mtorres.senatordrodriguez" <mtorres.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com>, ashelton.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com, vkomiyama.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com, jmanibusan.senatordrodriguez@gmail.com, frankaguon23@gmail.com, emew@guamlegislature.org

Hafa Adai, Senators:

Please see attached memo from Senator Respicio regarding the public hearing on February 2, 2011 at 9:00am/5:30pm.

Si Yu'os ma'ase',
Si Stephanie

—
Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Chairperson, Committee on Rules;
 Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
 and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 155 Hesler Place, Ste. 302
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Phone: (671) 472-7679
 Fax: (671) 472-3547

*Reprint w/o
 error mags.
 Print Revised
 1st Notice
 ae: 1/25 5:58pm*

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 25, 2011
For Immediate Release

First Notice of Public Hearing
February 1, 2011 – 9:00 AM, 5:30 PM

(Hagåtña, Guam) Please be advised that the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 1, 2010**, beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room. This hearing is scheduled to receive public testimony on the following:

9:00 AM

- The executive appointment of **Ms. Leah Beth Naholowaa** to serve as the **Director** of the **Department of Labor**;
- The executive appointment of **Ms. Mariquita Flores Taitague** to serve as the **Director** of the **Department of Agriculture**; and
- **Bill No. 37-31 (COR)** – J.P. Guthertz, DPA - "An act to repeal and reenact Section 12 of Chapter III, Part II, Department of Public Health and Social Services, of Public Law 30-196 relative to funding for the government of Guam Animal Shelter, currently operated by the Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), Inc."

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Copies of the above mentioned bills and appointment packets please visit the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com. Testimony should be addressed to Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson, and may be submitted via hand-delivery/mail to our office or our mailbox at the Main Legislature Building at 155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; via e-mail to rorifyorguam@gmail.com; or via facsimile to (671) 472-3547. Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services shall contact and submit their request to Elaine Tajalle at 472-7679.

###



Tina Okada <tinaokada@gmail.com>

1st Notice of Public Hrg: 2-Feb-11, 9:00am/5:30pm

1 message

Senator Rory J. Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 5:19 PM

To: hottips@kuam.com, mvariety@pticom.com, news@guampdn.com, news@spbguam.com

Hafa Adai, Newsrooms:

Please see attached press release from Senator Respicio regarding the public hearing on February 2, 2011 at 9:00am/5:30pm.

Si Yu'os ma'ase',
Si Stephanie

--
Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Chairperson, Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place, Ste. 302
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

*Print
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 2011.01.25_PR1_PH-2011.02.01.pdf
241K

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio 

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 1, 2010, 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Hafa Adai! Please be reminded that the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs; and Human & Natural Resources will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 1, 2010**, beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room. This hearing is scheduled to receive public testimony on the following:

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For more information, please contact our office at 472-7679. I look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

cc: Clerk of the Legislature
MIS
Sergeant-At-Arms



Tina Okada <tinaokada@gmail.com>

Notice of Public Hearing

2 messages

Senator Rory J. Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:39 PM

To: senator@senatorbjcruz.com, senatormabini@gmail.com, "Adolpho B. Palacios" <senabpalacios@gmail.com>, "Aline A. Yamashita" <aline4families@gmail.com>, "Christopher M. Duenas" <duenasenator@gmail.com>, "Dennis G. Rodriguez" <senatordrodriguez@gmail.com>, "Frank F. Blas, Jr." <frank.blasjr@gmail.com>, "Judith P. Guthertz" <judiguthertz@pticom.com>, "Judith T. Won Pat" <info@judiwonpat.com>, Mana Silva Taijeron <senatormana@gmail.com>, "Thomas C. Ada" <tom@senatorada.org>, Tina Rose Muna Barnes <tinamunabarnes@gmail.com>, "V. Anthony Ada" <senatortonyada@guamlegislature.org>, vicente 'ben' pangelinan <senbenp@guam.net>
Cc: clerks@guamlegislature.org, sgtarms@guamlegislature.org, mis@guamlegislature.org

Hafa Adai All,

Please see attached memo regarding the public hearing on February 1, 2011 at 9:00AM/5:30 PM in the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

Thank you,
Rory
Senator

--
Rory J. Respicio
Majority Leader
Chairperson, Committee on Rules;
Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place, Ste. 302
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-7679
Fax: (671) 472-3547

2011.01.28_Memo to All Sens_RE-2011.02.01 PH Notice2.pdf
445K

Print w/ Sens only

Senator Rory J. Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:45 PM

To: hottips@kuam.com, mvariety@pticom.com, news@guampdnr.com, news@spbgum.com

[Quoted text hidden]

2011.01.28_PR1_PH-2011.02.01, Notice 2.pdf
400K

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011
For Immediate Release

Second Notice of Public Hearing
February 1, 2011 – 9:00 AM, 5:30 PM

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The Committee will recess; then will reconvene at **5:30 PM** to receive public testimony on the following:

- **Bill No. 44-31 (COR)** – B.J.F. Cruz – "An act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.1 and §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated."

Copies of the above mentioned bills and appointment packets please visit the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com. Testimony should be addressed to Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson, and may be submitted via hand-delivery/mail to our office or our mailbox at the Main Legislature Building at 155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; via e-mail to cor@guamlegislature.org; or via facsimile to (671) 472-3547. Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services shall contact and submit their request to Elaine Tajalle at 472-7679.

###



Rory Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Notice of Public Hearing

3 messages

Senator Rory J. Respicio <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:45 PM

To: hottips@kuam.com, mvariety@pticom.com, news@guampdn.com, news@spbguam.com
 Bcc: action@weareguahan.com, admin@weareguahan.com, chrisu@marianasmedia.com, clynt@spbguam.com, dcrisostomo@guampdn.com, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, dtamondong@guampdn.com, gdumat-ol@guampdn.com, gerry@mvguam.com, janela@mvguam.com, jason@kuam.com, jeff@marianasmedia.com, jesselujan27@yahoo.com, john@kuam.com, jtyquiengco@spbguam.com, kevin@spbguam.com, kstone@ite.net, managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, marvic@mvguam.com, mindy@kuam.com, mpieper@guampdn.com, nick.delgado@kuam.com, parroyo@k57.com, reporter3@glimpsesofofguam.com, rgibson@k57.com, ricknauta@hitradiio100.com, sabrina@kuam.com, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, thebigshow@k57.com, therese.hart.writer@gmail.com, therese@mvguam.com, zita@mvguam.com, bill phillips <phillipsguam@gmail.com>, Elaine Tajalle <etajalle@guamlegislature.org>, Lannie Walker <lannie@kuam.com>, Ronnie Perez <marketing@hitradiio100.com>, "Rory J. Respicio" <roryforguam@gmail.com>, tinaokada <tinaokada@gmail.com>, William Gibson <breakfastshowk57@gmail.com>, communications@guam.gov, frankaguon23@gmail.com, oliviampalacios@gmail.com

Hafa Adai All,

Please see attached memo regarding the public hearing on February 1, 2011 at 9:00AM/5:30 PM in the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

Thank you,
Rory
Senator

--
Rory J. Respicio
 Majority Leader
 Chairperson, Committee on Rules;
 Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs;
 and Human & Natural Resources
I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 155 Hesler Place, Ste. 302
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Phone: (671) 472-7679
 Fax: (671) 472-3547

2011.01.28_PR1_PH-2011.02.01, Notice 2.pdf
 400K

*Print w/o
 error
 msg*

noreply@boxbe.com <noreply@boxbe.com>
 Reply-To: etajalle@guamlegislature.org
 To: "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 28, 2011 at 2:45 PM

Hello Senator Rory J. Respicio,

Your message about "Notice of Public Hearing" was waitlisted.

Please add yourself to my Guest List so your messages will be delivered to my Inbox.
Use the link below.

Click here to deliver your message

Thank you,
etajalle@guamlegislature.org



Final-Recipient: rfc822; etajalle@guamlegislature.org
 Diagnostic-Code: X-Boxbe-Notice; Sender not pre-approved. Follow instructions in above notice

 2011.01.28_PR1_PH-2011.02.01, Notice 2.pdf
400K

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

JAN-28-2011 10:58 AM FRI

FAX NUMBER : 4772240
NAME : GNF

NAME/NUMBER : 7346570
PAGE : 4
START TIME : JAN-28-2011 10:57AM FRI
ELAPSED TIME : 00' 36"
MODE : STD ECM
RESULTS : [O.K]

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS, AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Ms. Val Brown
Guam Department of Agriculture
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao Guam 96913

RE: Notice of Public Hearing - Tuesday, February 1, 2011 - 5:30 PM

Hafa Adai Ms. Brown:

Please be advised that the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 5:30 PM** in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room.

Of the item's on the day's agenda, you may be particularly interested in **Bill No. 44-31 (COR) - "An act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.1 and §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated,"** sponsored by Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz. A copy of Bill No. 44 can be found on the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com (see "Bills" / "Introduced" / "31st").

I invite you to appear before this committee and provide testimony on Bill No. 44. Please feel free to extend this invitation to other interested members of our community. Testimony should be addressed to Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources; and may be hand-delivered or mailed to the Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio at 155 Hesler Place, Hagatna, Guam 96910; e-mailed to cor@guamlegislature.org; or faxed to (671) 472-3547. For more information, please contact our office at 472-7679. I look forward to your attendance and participation.

Very truly yours,

Rory J. Respicio

*Confirmed receipt
by Neil - Aquatic Ed
1/28/11 11:11 AM
NS*

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

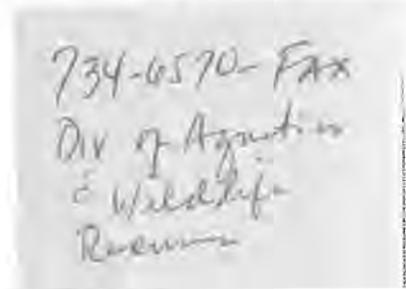
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Ms. Val Brown
Guam Department of Agriculture
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao Guam 96913



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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Brent Tibbats

Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources
Department of Agriculture
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao Guam 96913

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

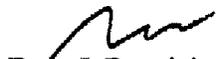
Hafa Adai Mr. Tibbats:

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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Jay Gutierrez

Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources
Department of Agriculture
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao Guam 96913

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

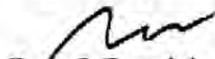
Hafa Adai Mr. Gutierrez:

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Very truly yours,



Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Tino Aguon

Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources
Department of Agriculture
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao Guam 96913

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

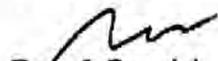
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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

JAN-28-2011 11:09 AM FRI

FAX NUMBER : 4772240
NAME : GNF

NAME/NUMBER : 4754512
PAGE : 4
START TIME : JAN-28-2011 11:05AM FRI
ELAPSED TIME : 03' 46"
MODE : STD ECM
RESULTS : [O.K]

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS, AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minutrenai Unu na Liheslaturan Guahan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Dave Burdick
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

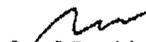
Hafa Adai Mr. Burdick:

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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

*Confirmed Receipt
by Terry 1/28/11
11:23 AM*

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

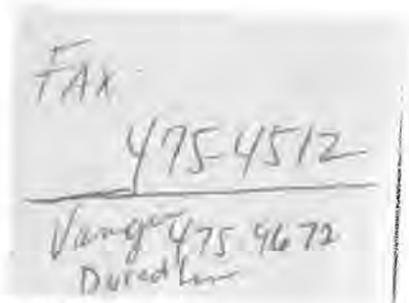
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guãhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Dave Burdick
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932



RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

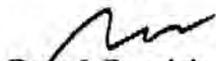
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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Ms. Elaina Todd

Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

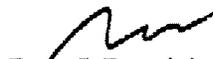
Hafa Adai Ms. Todd:

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Very truly yours,



Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guãhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Ms. Evangeliene Lujan
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

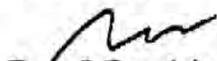
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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Tammy Jo Anderson Taft
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

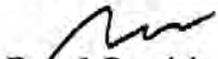
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Very truly yours,


Rory J. Respicio

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

JAN-28-2011 11:43 AM FRI

FAX NUMBER : 4772240
NAME : GNF

NAME/NUMBER : 4776329
PAGE : 2
START TIME : JAN-28-2011 11:42AM FRI
ELAPSED TIME : 01' 24"
MODE : STD G3
RESULTS : [O.K]

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS, AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Jim Miller
General Manager
856 North Marine Core Drive
Piti, Guam 96915

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

Hafa Adai Mr. Miller:

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Of the item's on the day's agenda, you may be particularly interested in **Bill No. 44-31 (COR) – "An act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.1 and §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated,"** sponsored by Vice Speaker Benjamin JF Cruz. A copy of Bill No. 44 can be found on the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com (see "Bills" / "Introduced" / "31").

I invite you to appear before this committee and provide testimony on Bill No. 44. Please feel free to extend this invitation to other interested members of our community. Testimony should be addressed to Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, and Human & Natural Resources; and may be hand-delivered or mailed to the Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio at 155 Hesler Place, Hagatña, Guam 96910; e-mailed to cor@guamlegislature.org; or faxed to (671) 472-3547. For more information, please contact our office at 472-7679. I look forward to your attendance and participation.

Very truly yours,

Rory J. Respicio

*Confirmed receipt
by Jeanetta -MOA
1/28/11 - 11:56
JRM*

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Minã'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guãhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Jim Miller
General Manager
856 North Marine Core Drive
Piti, Guam 96915

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

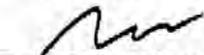
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SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN
AFFAIRS; AND HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES



I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 28, 2011

Mr. Lee Webber
President
856 North Marine Core Drive
Piti, Guam 96915

RE: Notice of Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 5:30 PM

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I Minã'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
Legislature's Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Announcements**
- III. Items for Public Consideration**

9:00 AM

- Executive Appointment of Ms. Leah Beth Naholowaa to serve as the Director of the Department of Labor;
- Executive Appointment of Ms. Mariquita Flores Taitague to serve as the Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- Bill No. 37-31 (COR) – J.P. Guthertz, DPA – “An Act to repeal and reenact Section 12 of Chapter III, Part II, Department of Public Health and Social Services, of Public Law 30-196 relative to funding for the government of Guam Animal Shelter, currently operated by the Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), Inc.”

5:30 PM

- Bill No. 44-31 (COR) – B.J.F. Cruz – “An Act to prohibit the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins and ray parts by amending §63101 and §63129 and adding a new §63114.2 to Chapter 63 of Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated.”

- IV. Remarks**
- V. Adjournment**

Electronic copies of the aforementioned bills can be found on the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com (see “Bills” / “Introduced” / “31st”). Testimony should be addressed to Senator Rory J. Respicio, Chairperson, and may be submitted via hand-delivery to our office or our mailbox at the Main Legislature Building at 155 Hesler Place, Hagatna, Guam 96910, via e-mail to roryforguam@gmail.com, or via facsimile to (671) 472-3547. Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services shall contact and submit their request to our office. For further information, please call 472-7679. We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

Fishermen express anger

WEDNESDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2011 02:31 BY JANELA BUHAIN | VARIETY NEWS STAFF



A public hearing last night on a bill that aims to ban shark finning and its possession on island caused a stir among local fishermen

who say they are being portrayed as the "bad guys" because of the bill.

Bill 44-31, introduced by Vice Speaker BJ Cruz last week, seeks to ban the possession, sale, trade and distribution of shark fins on Guam and imposes strict fines and imprisonment for those caught in the act.

Dozens of high school students, fishermen, activists and scientists filled the legislative public hearing room to provide testimony and show support or opposition to the bill.

Fishermen's Cooperative Association President Manny Duenas said he opposes the bill because there is no need for it.

"I'm really disheartened by the fact that it's implying that it's happening here on Guam," Duenas said. "Fishermen are not evil."

Duenas said that there is no evidence that the local shark population is in jeopardy as stated in the intent of the bill.

He said he had scientific data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to prove that sharks are not in jeopardy in local waters.

Duenas said Guam's waters may have more dangerous sharks than they did 20 years ago and shared that his nephew was ravaged by a tiger shark.

"Sharks are so abundant around Guam and it's a nuisance," he said, adding that sharks were only found in certain parts of the island in the 1970s and 1980s but are now so abundant that they are found all over the island.

Duenas suggested that the concern for shark finning is exaggerated and not appropriate in the Marianas or within any U.S. jurisdiction in the central and western Pacific region because of strict federal fishing regulations already in place.

Local fisherman John Aguon said he was concerned because he catches sharks for subsistence purposes.



Local fisherman John Aguon gives his testimony on Bill 44-31 as Lexi Lee-Sang, 11, and Reagan Singler, 6, of St. John's School's Kids for Coral program look on. Photo by Matt Weiss

"I'm not a destroyer or shark killer but let's get more educated. Some of these people haven't even tasted shark how can they say killing shark is bad when it's feeding me and my family," Aguon said.

However, Senator Rory Respicio, co-sponsor of the bill, assured Aguon that he will not be affected by the bill if enacted into law because the bill addresses commercial fishing of sharks.

Support

Dozens of students showed up at the hearing from George Washington High School, Simon Sanchez High School and St. John's School and provided their support for the bill.

Several shared scientific facts they learned through science classes or through movies promoting shark conservation.

"Although Guam does not have a serious issue with shark finning, our island condones it because we allow its importation," said Angelica Gagan, one of the students.

Evelyn Quiell, President of the Shark Made Club at SSSHS, read testimony on behalf of Sharkwater documentary producer Rob Stewart who was on island Monday to show support for the bill.

"Sharks have been on earth for over 400 million years and have survived five major extinctions. Their populations have dropped by over 90 percent in the last 30 years ... an estimated 73 million sharks are killed every year," Quiell read.

Local resident Mitchell Singler suggested that Bill 44-31, if passed into law, could boost tourism on island. He said it would highlight efforts being made to protect sharks and would attract tourists and divers just as Palau attracts tourists because of its marine sanctuary.

2 people liked this.

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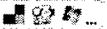
momonguam 4 hours ago

The problem is not fishing shark, its finning the shark. Finning is where only the fin is taken. The shark is left alive to drown. One person can kill many more sharks in finning than they would if they were fishing sharks. When you fish you bring the whole shark back with you. When you fin, you don't. Finning is done only for the money to be made selling the fin. It is not done to use the shark for eating or any other purpose.

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Local News

Pacific Daily News • news@guampdn.com •
February 2, 2011

12,000 support ban on shark, ray parts

More than 12,000 people have signed two petitions supporting legislation promoting bans on the trading and selling of shark fins and ray parts on Guam. The petitions, located on the websites change.org and thepetitionsite.com, support the passage of Bill 44, which was introduced last month by Vice Speaker Benjamin J. Cruz and Sen. Rory Respicio. Although the federal Shark Conservation Act already prohibits the importation and transshipping of fins, Bill 44 would make local enforcement possible, according to Pacific Daily News files. Legislators held a public hearing on the bill yesterday.

Mann to head USEPA Pacific office

Michael Mann is the new Guam Program Manager from U.S. EPA Region 9's Pacific Islands Office. Mann replaces Michael Wolfram, who has been appointed to serve as program manager for the Territory of American Samoa. Mann is no stranger to Guam, having worked at Guam EPA on assignment. From October 2002 to September 2006 he helped Guam EPA build the Information Services Branch, served as Guam EPA's public information officer and network administrator, and chaired the Guam Environmental Education Committee. Just this past year, Mann assisted Guam EPA with his expertise as a member of the Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Task Force.

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I MINA' TRENTA I UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 44-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz
R.J. Respicio

2011 JAN 21 AM 11:33
GUAM

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, TRADING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SHARK FINS AND RAY PARTS BY AMENDING §63101 AND §63129 AND ADDING A NEW §63114.1 AND §63114.2 TO CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 5 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that it is the responsibility of the Government of Guam to protect and preserve Guam's limited natural resources. Upon discovery that a resource is in serious jeopardy, it is necessary that our government enact local measures to stop activities that contribute to the endangerment of our resources.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that Sharks are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an important role in our ocean's ecosystem. Sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to overfishing than most fish, and data from local, federal, and international agencies show a decline in the shark populations both locally and worldwide. Unlike other fish species, most sharks do not reach reproductive maturity until seven to twelve years of age and then only give birth to a small litter of young. Thus, sharks cannot rebuild their populations quickly once they are overfished.

1 Sharks, rays, and skates are part of the same subclass of cartilaginous fish.
2 Unfortunately, rays are caught for the sale of their parts based on supposed
3 medicinal claims. Rays only give birth to one or two pups at a time and the
4 females take a year off between litters. Like sharks, this low reproductive rate
5 makes them vulnerable to overfishing. Their large size, migratory behavior, low
6 birth rate, and large size at maturity make them highly vulnerable to fishing
7 pressure.

8 The practice of shark finning, where a shark is caught, the fin is cut off, and
9 the shark is returned to the water, causes tens of millions of sharks to die a slow
10 death each year. Some sharks starve to death, other fish slowly eat sharks, and
11 some drown because most sharks need to keep moving to force water through their
12 gills for oxygen.

13 Sharks and rays are an essential element of the ocean's ecosystem, and by
14 reducing the demand for shark fins and rays, the Government of Guam must also
15 ensure that sharks and rays will not become extinct. Therefore, it is the intent of *I*
16 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enact local fines and penalties in addition to those
17 prescribed by U.S. Public Law 111-348.

18 **Section 2.** New items (x), (y), (z), and (aa) are hereby *added* to § 63101 of
19 Chapter 63, 5 GCA to read as follows:

20 “(x) Ray - is defined as animals in the Order Myliobatiformes,
21 including but not limited to Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*), Manta Rays
22 (*Manta birostris*) and Blue-spotted Rays (*Taeniura lymma*).

23 (y) Shark - is defined as an animal commonly known as a shark and
24 includes all animals in the Orders Hexanchiformes, Pristiophoriformes,
25 Squatiformes, Heterodontiformes, Orectolobiformes, Lamniformes and
26 Carcharhiniformes.

27 (z) Shark Fin – is defined as the raw or dried fin or tail of a shark.

1 (aa) Ray Part - is defined as any part of a ray.”

2 **Section 3.** Item (s) of § 63101 of Chapter 63, Title 5 of the Guam Code
3 Annotated is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

4 “(s) Take - is defined as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, angle, seize, kill, trap,
5 harm, shoot in any way or by an agency or device; every attempt to do so acts or to
6 assist any other person in the doing of or the attempts to do such acts. Except that
7 the accidental catching of a shark or ray by a person fishing with hook and line
8 does not amount to a taking if the shark or ray is immediately returned to the
9 water.”

10 **Section 4.** A new Section 63114.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5,
11 Guam Code Annotated to read:

12 “**§63114.1. Shark Fins.**

13 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, take, purchase, barter,
14 transport, export or import, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins, alive or
15 dead, or any part thereof except as permitted by the department for educational and
16 research purposes consistent with federal law.

17 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a shark for
18 subsistence purposes, (non-commercial) only shall not be subject to the penalties
19 of this act.

20 (c) Criminal Penalties. A person convicted under this section shall be
21 punishable as follows:

22 (1) First Offense - Imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or a
23 fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both.

24 (2) Second or Subsequent Offense(s) - Imprisonment of not more than
25 one (1) year or a fine of not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) or
26 both.

1 (3) Each ‘taking’ or any other act prohibited by this section with
2 respect to a shark shall constitute separate violations.

3 (d) Civil Penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person within Guam waters
4 or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to take, possess, sell, purchase,
5 barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in
6 any manner, any shark, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted
7 to do so as provided in this section, or violates any permit or regulation issued
8 pursuant to this section, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Department of
9 Aquatics and Wildlife Resources of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5.000)
10 for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No civil
11 penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a
12 hearing with respect to such violation. Upon any failure to pay the civil penalty
13 assessed under this subsection, the Director of the Department of Aquatics and
14 Wildlife Resources shall request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in
15 the Superior Court of Guam to collect the penalty and such court shall have
16 jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing any such action, the
17 court must sustain the Director's action if supported by substantial evidence.”

18 **Section 5.** A new Section 63114.2 is hereby *added* to Chapter 63 of Title 5,
19 Guam Code Annotated to read:

20 “**§63114.2. Ray Parts.**

21 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, take, purchase, barter,
22 transport, export or import, offer for sale, trade, or distribute ray parts, alive or
23 dead, or any part thereof except as permitted by the department for educational and
24 research purposes consistent with federal law.

25 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a ray for
26 subsistence purposes, (non-commercial) only shall not be subject to the penalties
27 of this act.

1 (c) Criminal Penalties. A person convicted under this section shall be
2 punishable as follows:

3 (1) First Offense - Imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or a
4 fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both.

5 (2) Second or Subsequent Offense(s) - Imprisonment of not more than
6 one (1) year or a fine of not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) or
7 both.

8 (3) Each 'taking' or any other act prohibited by this section with
9 respect to a ray shall constitute separate violations.

10 (d) Civil Penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person within Guam waters
11 or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to take, possess, sell, purchase,
12 barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or in
13 any manner, any ray, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without being permitted to
14 do so as provided in this section, or violates any permit or regulation issued
15 pursuant to this section, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Department of
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18 penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a
19 hearing with respect to such violation. Upon any failure to pay the civil penalty
20 assessed under this subsection, the Director of the Department of Aquatics and
21 Wildlife Resources shall request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in
22 the Superior Court of Guam to collect the penalty and such court shall have
23 jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing any such action, the
24 court must sustain the Director's action if supported by substantial evidence.”

25 **Section 6.** Section 63129 of Chapter 63 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated is
26 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

27 “§ 63129. **Penalty.**

1 Any person violating § 63104, § 63105, § 63106, § 63107, ~~or~~ § 63108, or §
2 63116.3 of this Article is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not
3 more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500),
4 nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or by both. Any person violating §
5 63606.1 or § 63606.2 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a felony, and upon
6 conviction thereof may be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not
7 more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or both. A violation of any
8 other provision of this Article or its supporting regulations shall be guilty of a
9 misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not less
10 than Fifty Dollars (\$50), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), or by
11 imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or by both fine and imprisonment.
12 In addition, all pelagic drift nets or their components, equipment for their
13 manufacture, containers for such nets, fish or fish products gathered through the
14 use of a pelagic drift net, and all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles and
15 vessels used for their transport shall be subject to forfeiture, and may be seized by
16 the Governor under process issued by the Superior Court except that such seizure
17 without such process may be made when the seizure is incidental to an arrest or a
18 search pursuant to a search warrant, or as provided by § 63128 of this Article.”