

Shark fins are mainly used in Asia as the main ingredient in shark fin soup a local delicacy. A bowl can cost up to EUR 92 (\$ 100). An average of 3,500 tons of shark fins are exported from the EU each year*, and, on average, 100 million sharks are killed annually world-wide for the manufacture of shark products.

Industrial fishing often results in species that were not originally intended to be caught ending up in the catch. This called by-catch and often includes dolphins, sea turtles and seabirds, as well as to sharks.

The class of cartilaginous fish, which includes sharks, rays, skates and chimæras, is over 400 million years old. So, the sharks have outlived the dinosaurs. But today they are threatened. Our behaviour has managed to endanger an evolutionarily successful group with extinction within just a few decades. The shark stocks that have been reduced by intensive hunting are not recovering fast enough. Both sharks and rays have a long gestation and relatively few young that grow slowly and mature late.

www.whichfish.eu

* Felix Dent, Shelley Clarke.
State of the global market for shark products.
FAO. Rome. 2015

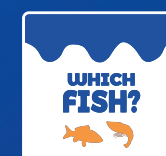
www.zoopraha.cz/whichfish



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SHARKS



ENDANGERED RULERS OF THE SEAS

Try to avoid all shark products, such as shark steaks, shark liver oil, preparations made of shark cartilage for the joints and so on. **Which Fish?** is a campaign by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) focussed on reducing the devastating impact of industrial fishing and commercial activities on the marine environment and life in the seas and oceans.



The mako shark is a common by-catch whilst also being a highly prized catch. It is thus one of the most heavily fished shark species.



Scalloped hammerheads can sometime be found in the by-catch, however, due to the price of shark fins, it is very valuable for fishermen. It is now critically endangered, mainly due to industrial fishing.



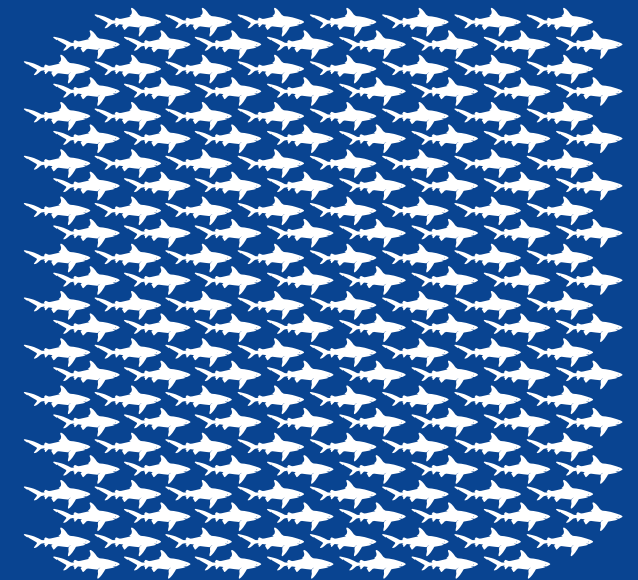
Oceanic whitetip sharks are most often caught for their fins, but also for meat. It too is a frequent victim of by-catch. It is now critically endangered worldwide due to overfishing.



The blue shark is one of the most heavily fished shark species for its fins, this has made it a critically endangered species in the Mediterranean.



The common skate is a critically endangered species due to overfishing. However, common skates in general are also threatened by bottom trawling which destroys the seabed where they mostly live.



NUMBER OF SHARKS KILLED BY HUMANS PER MINUTE

190 Boris Worm et al. *Global catches, exploitation rates, and rebuilding options for sharks*. Marine Policy 40, 2013



NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY SHARKS PER YEAR

International Shark Attack File (ISAF), 2019
www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/shark-attacks/