

YES on AB 376!

FOUR FACTS

#1 Sharks are in trouble

For 400 million years sharks have protected our ocean ecosystem, but they may be extinct within our lifetime because shark fin traders kill as many as 8,333 sharks per hour. According to University of California scientists, at least 107 species of sharks worldwide have reduced population sizes that warrant international concern. And there is good reason for concern - marine biologists tell us that when shark populations are destroyed, the overall health of the ocean ecosystem declines rapidly and can ultimately collapse – a principle known as “trophic cascade.”

#2 The shark fin trade is destructive

Like elephant ivory, rhino horn, bear paws, and other rare or exotic animal parts, shark fin is sold for astronomical sums as a symbol of wealth and status. And like these other destructive trades, the shark fin trade drives mass slaughter, poaching, inhumane practices, and crime. Shark fin sells for up to 250 times the value of shark steaks and other body parts. This economic distortion means that most sharks are “finned” at sea or on the docks – their bodies left to rot or ground into fish food after the fin is taken.

#3 California supports the problem

Though California ended its participation in the ivory, rhino horn and bear paw trades, our state has not yet banned shark fin trading. Even worse, California is a key facilitator for the international fin trade. In addition to selling fins here, traders use our ports and borders to traffic fins from all over the world to countries in Asia and elsewhere.

Our Pacific Coast neighbors in Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii have already acted decisively to ban the shark fin trade. Measures in these states passed with near-unanimous bipartisan support after voters of all political stripes called upon policymakers to shut down the trade.

Beyond our neighbors, attitudes about shark fin are rapidly shifting in favor of sharks; a recent University of Hong Kong survey found that 78% of Hong Kong residents understand that sharks are in trouble and believe it is acceptable to leave shark fin soup off the menu. Legislation to end the destructive shark fin trade has been proposed or enacted in several places, including China and Taiwan. Throughout the world, including in California, these legislative efforts are led and supported by Asians.

AB 376 would shut down the market in California and combat the global shark fin trade, particularly when combined with actions already taken by Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and other places.

#4 Californians support the solution: AB 376

Shark fin traders and their lobbyists are working hard against AB 376. But people throughout the world, including in California, are working together to end the shark fin market and ensure a healthy ocean now and for future generations. A recent poll commissioned by the Monterey Bay Aquarium found that 76% of California voters regardless of party affiliation, including 70% of Californian Chinese American voters, strongly support AB 376.

Hunters, anglers, conservationists, scientists, Asian American civil liberties and community leaders, wildlife welfare groups, commercial fishermen, law enforcement, cultural heritage organizations, other diversified interests, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and thousands of individuals of many races and heritages strongly support AB 376.
