

DIRECTED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, INC.

A SALTWATER FISHERIES CONSULTING COMPANY

Eugene Lapointe, President
IWMC World Conservation Trust
3, Passage de Montriond
Lausanne 1006, Switzerland

24 February 2020

Re: Impact of CITES Shark Industry Decisions on the United States commercial shark fishing communities as influenced by ENGOs utilizing false narratives built on misleading data sets.

To: Eugene Lapointe,

Thank you for your continued interest & support for our well managed & sustainable US shark fishery since the 1990's. Recent years have seen the shark industry report on certain shark exports to CITES, especially since Scalloped Hammerhead shark populations. These changes have led to negative impacts to income from industry landed sharks for human food. Other impacts are because ENGO groups such as PEW, and/or groups allied to them (i.e., Oceana, Humane Society & Shark Allies) use false narratives against our US shark fishing examples. The anti-shark fishing campaign has become like a lynch mob attacking shark harvesters as being unsustainable in spite of managers using the best science to prevent overfishing, and/or to rebuild overfished shark species. The National Marine Fisheries Service released some public documents recently that attest to wise use of the best scientific information available (BSIA) for sharks.¹

In spite of the NMFS successes protecting US shark stocks since 1993, the extreme ENGOs agenda has shifted in recent years by pushing politics mixed with fake innuendos to promote shark fin bans with some states and/or nationwide with agendas to end profits from the fullest market uses for legally harvested sharks. If the ENGOs succeed in banning shark fin sales for coastal states like Florida, and/or nationwide, then our shark fishing industry will probably go out of business. Future ENGOs will keep using misinformation about the "unsustainable use" of sharks in the US, as well as internationally. The goal is less about "animal rights", and more about ending commercial fishing of many types worldwide, depriving humans of a nutritious sustainable protein source that include sharks, and many other seafood species. Really sad!

Rusty

Russell Howard Hudson, President
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¹ <https://mailchi.mp/savingseafood/shark-fin-sale-bans-would-hurt-us-fishermen-without-improving-shark-conservation-management?e=987351576c>

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Saltwater Fisheries Consultant, Shark Specialist
Deep-Sea Fishing Expert and Shrimp Boat Captain
Retired 100-ton United States Coast Guard (USCG) Licensed Sea Captain
Recreational, For-Hire & Commercial Fishing Life Experience, 1958-2020
Sixth Generation Waterman from Central Florida (FL) East Coast
Seafood Coalition (SFC) member
American Elasmobranch Society (AES) member 2004-2020
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Advisory Committee FL member
ACCSP Biological Review Panel (BRP) member
ACCSP Bycatch Prioritization Committee (BPC) member
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Coastal Shark (CS) Advisory Panel (AP) FL Commercial & For-hire recreational member [former Chair of CS AP]
ASMFC Bluefish AP FL Commercial member
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) AP Commercial Shark member 2019-2021
NMFS HMS SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) AP Pool member 2016-2021
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) SEDAR AP Pool member no term limits
SAFMC Fisheries Citizen Science Program Participant 2016-2020
SAFMC Mackerel-Cobia AP FL Commercial member 2018-2021
SAFMC Snapper-Grouper (SG) AP FL Commercial member 2015-2021
SAFMC System Management Plan (SMP) Workgroup FL Commercial member 2018-2021
SAFMC Marine Protected Area (MPA) Expert Work Group (EWG) participant 2012-2013
Former SAFMC MPA AP FL Commercial member
Former NMFS Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team FL participant (ALWTRT)
Former NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team FL participant (BDTRT)
Participant, observer and/or contributor to US coastal shark stock assessments during 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010-2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.
Participant, observer and/or contributor SEDAR 11 (Large Coastal Sharks), 13 (Small Coastal Sharks), 16 (King Mackerel), 19 (Red Grouper/Black Grouper), 21 (Large Coastal Sharks/Small Coastal Sharks), 24 (Red Snapper), 25 (Black Sea Bass/Golden Tilefish), 28 (Spanish Mackerel/Cobia), 29 (Gulf Blacktip Sharks), 32 (Gray Triggerfish/Blueline Tilefish), 34 (Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks/Bonnethead Sharks), 36 (Snowy Grouper), 38 (King Mackerel), 39 (Smoothhound Sharks), 41 (Red Snapper/Gray Triggerfish), 50 (Blueline Tilefish), 53 (Red Grouper), 54 (Sandbar Sharks), 56 (Black Sea Bass), 65 (Atlantic Blacktip Sharks) and SEDAR 66 (Golden Tilefish).