

Sharks



Quick Fact: Bycatch

Scientists estimate that 100 million sharks are caught and killed each year; half of these sharks are caught accidentally in fishing gear intended for other fish.

Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch

Make Choices for Healthy Oceans

Issues

- ▶ Most sharks don't reproduce quickly enough to keep up with the global demand for their meat and fins.
- ▶ Each year, fishermen cut the fins off more than 50 million sharks, and then throw the dying animals overboard as bycatch.
- ▶ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency have issued an advisory for women of childbearing age and children to avoid eating shark, due to high levels of mercury contamination.

Location

- ▶ More than 100 nations fish for sharks worldwide.

Other Common Names

- ▶ Many species of sharks are caught for human consumption, including mako, thresher and soupfin. Dogfish, a smaller shark, is used as a substitute for cod in fish-and-chips.

Menu Alternatives

- ▶ Farmed sturgeon and Pacific halibut are your best choices.

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