

WHEN SHARKS DIE, THE OCEANS DIE.

Sharks are vital to the health of the oceans.

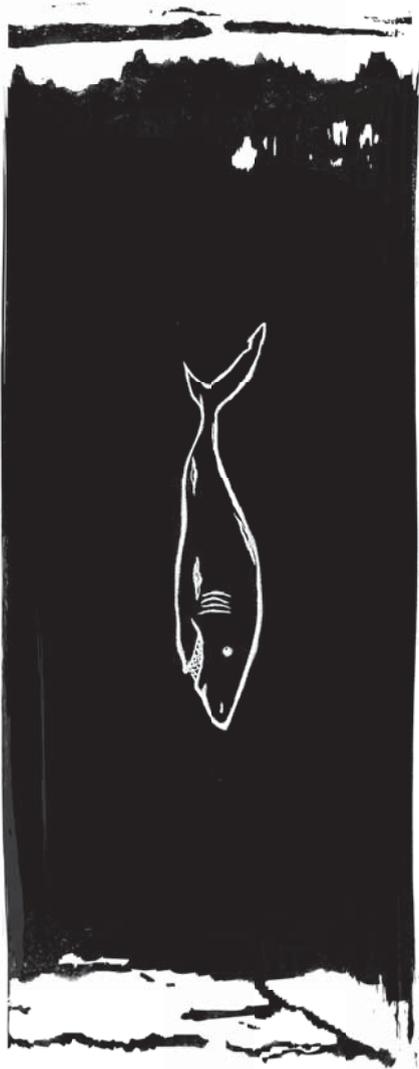
Sharks are keystone species in the oceans. They are the tigers of the sea and they play critical roles as both predators and scavengers. For over 400 million years, they have helped maintain healthy and balanced marine ecosystems by eliminating diseased and genetically defective animals.

Collapsing Marine ecosystems.

Removing sharks will result in the collapse of the entire marine food web. It's like a big tower of jenga; you take out a key brick at the bottom and the whole thing collapses. This is because of a phenomenon called 'Trophic Cascade'. Overfishing of sharks cascades into a sudden uprising of the species they prey on, causing an abundance of skates, rays and smaller sharks, which then steadily devastate populations of animals further down the food chain, like shellfish.

Our commercial fisheries are doomed.

By killing sharks, we unknowingly inflict collateral damage on commercial food fisheries—fisheries that support large human populations around the world. In Tasmania, for instance, the demise of sharks led to the collapse of the spiny lobster industry. In Chesapeake Bay in the United States, excessive shark hunting led to a fall in the population of scallops and clams. And clam chowder went off the menu in eateries across the East Coast of the USA.



Sharks are under severe threat.

According to the latest estimates, over a 100 million sharks are killed each year for their fins. Shark populations are now reduced by 70% in some species and up to 98% in species like tiger sharks, hammerhead sharks, bull sharks and blacktip sharks. Sharks are also slow to recover from over-hunting because they are slow breeding and slow-maturing apex predators.

The greatest threat is from shark fin soup.

The majority of the demand for shark meat is from the shark-fin industry, centered in Asia. Singapore is one of the main consumer countries, along with Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand. For every Chinese wedding banquet in Singapore that serves shark fin soup, the world loses another 40-50 sharks.

For the sake of our oceans, give up the soup.

Every time you say no to shark fin soup, you not only save the life of a shark, you help save thousands of marine life. As more of us give up shark fin soup altogether, and encourage still more people to do the same, we will eventually restore shark populations to healthy levels and our oceans to their natural equilibrium. It's a worthwhile goal.

Say 'no' to shark fin soup.

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