



12 December 2011

YB Datuk Masidi Manjun
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment
Block A (Alliance Bank Towers)
Wisma Tun Fuad Stephens,
88300 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah

YB Datuk,

GRATITUDE FOR SHARK CONSERVATION EFFORTS

With reference to the above, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for initiating and supporting the move to ban shark harvesting, possession and sales in Sabah – the first of its kind in Asia.

We applaud your efforts in support of shark conservation. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), about a third of open water sharks currently face extinction. This is alarming, as they are keystone species in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem.

Shark conservation can help to boost the local economy in Sabah, as studies have shown that sharks are worth a lot more to the tourism industry alive rather than dead. Many organisations in Malaysia and the world have documented massive declines in shark populations, therefore a ban on harvesting, possessing and sale of shark is vital in protecting the remaining shark population. Sharks are slow to mature and they produce very few young. The new law will give them a chance to repopulate our ocean again. This will also be a great example to our Asian counterparts in handling of such issues.

It is indeed very reassuring to see the Sabah government working towards a positive change. Many people are passionate about this cause, and we strive to support the State Government with your efforts to completely end shark hunting. We would like all Malaysians to join us and save our sharks from a bowl of soup, by saying NO to shark's fin.

Yours sincerely

Tun Daim Zainuddin

YBHG Dato' Hj. Mohamad Roslan Bin Sakiman
Datuk Bandar, Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya

Datuk Michelle Yeoh

Lee Kirk Keong
Founder, Save Our Sharks
From A Bowl Of Soup



Supported by:



Asian Scientist
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HK SHARK FOUNDATION
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Project-FIN



Protecção
do Tubarão
em Portugal

(Portuguese Shark
Committee)



(Project AWARE
Foundation)



(Sea Shepherd
Conservation Society)



(Shark And Coral
Conservation Trust)



Shark
Research
Committee



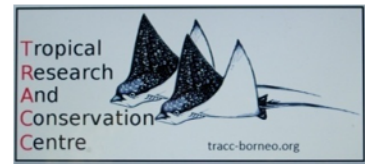


SHARK TRUTH

SHARK PROJECT



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDAID





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Vice President
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Actor, singer/songwriter

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Artiste

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2008
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Yasmin Ras
Founder, President
EcoKnights

YL Mok
Regional Executive Director
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Yuri Wong
Music Composer, Producer



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(USA)

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Eloy S. Inos
Lieutenant Governor

NOV 16 2011

Mr. YB Datuk Masidi Manjun
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment
Block A (Alliance Bank Towers)
Wisma Tun Fuad Stephens,
88300 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia

Dear Prime Minister Manjun:

Hafa adai yan tirow wáámi from the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

I want to convey my enthusiastic support and heartfelt thanks for initiating and supporting the move to ban shark harvesting, possession and sales in Sabah, which I understand is the first of its kind in Asia.

On January 27, 2011, I had the pleasure of signing into law House Bill 17-94, which is now Public Law 17-27, banning the sale of shark fins here in the CNMI. This move ensured the CNMI's place in history as only the second place in the world to have adopted such legislation at the time. Rob Stewart, Director of the internationally acclaimed movie *Sharkwater*, captured the signing ceremony on film in his short movie *Sharkwater Saipan*. You can view this movie on Youtube at the following URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn8KXVYR3Ns>.

This movie tells the story of a group of 6th grade students and their teacher who successfully lobbied lawmakers and me to pass legislation and sign the law to save sharks in our waters. I am happy to say that the CNMI movement inspired our neighbor island of Guam and other places to pass similar conservation laws.

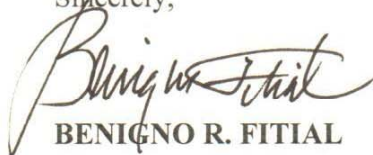
In fact, I took the campaign to Micronesia, where I urged my colleagues at this year's Micronesian Chiefs Executive Summit to adopt similar shark-protection legislation as the CNMI had done. The Chief Executives unanimously passed a resolution supporting the campaign to save sharks in our waters.

I applaud your efforts in pioneering support of shark conservation in your country. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), about a third of open water sharks currently face extinction. This is alarming, as they are keystone species in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem.

Shark conservation can help to boost the local economy in Sabah, as studies have shown that sharks are worth a lot more to the tourism industry alive rather than dead. I understand that many organizations in Malaysia and the world have documented massive declines in shark populations; therefore, a ban on harvesting, possessing and sale of shark fins is vital in protecting the remaining shark population. Sharks are slow to mature and they produce very few young. The new law will give them a chance to repopulate our ocean again. This will also be a great example to our Asian counterparts in handling of such issues.

It is, indeed, very reassuring to see the Sabah government working towards a positive change. Many people are passionate about this cause, and we strive to support the State Government with your efforts to completely end shark hunting. We would like all Malaysians to join us and save our sharks from a bowl of soup, by saying NO to harvesting shark fins.

Sincerely,



BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Cinta Kaipat, Founder, Beautify CNMI!
Kirk Lee, Founder, CEO, Save Our Sharks From a Bowl of Soup
Rob Stewart, Founder, United Conservationists, Director, Sharkwater