



March 6, 2018

Honorable Daniel Webster
1210 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission

Dear Representative Webster:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is pleased to support the Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act.

Commissioners

- Bo Rivard**
Chairman
Panama City
- Robert A. Spottswood**
Vice Chairman
Key West
- Joshua Kellam**
Palm Beach Gardens
- Gary Lester**
Oxford
- Gary Nicklaus**
Jupiter
- Sonya Rood**
St. Augustine
- Michael W. Sole**
Tequesta

The United States is a world leader in shark conservation, with strict laws and regulatory measures in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of sharks, skates, and rays while still allowing commercial fisherman to participate in the United States and world economy. Shark fins, meat, and byproducts (such as oil, liver, and skin) from these fish are commercially viable products in the marketplace. Recent research has demonstrated that several shark populations are beginning to recover in the United States, confirming that state and federal fisheries management measures here in the United States are working, while continuing to allow tightly-controlled harvest. Unfortunately, many countries in the world do not have laws that are comparable to ours and these countries pose a threat to the long-term sustainability of these fisheries in their regions.

Office of the
Executive Director

- Eric Sutton**
Executive Director
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*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
well-being and the benefit
of people.*

The United States should be proud of the strides it has made in managing both shark populations and shark fisheries. These well-regulated, sustainable fisheries serve as a model for other countries who participate in the international trade of sharks, skates, and rays. Toward this end, FWC believes the Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act strikes the correct tone and balance. It allows United States and foreign commercial fishermen to participate in the world economy, but demands that they do so in a way that provides long-term sustainability of the shark, ray and skate products they target in order for those products to enter United States markets.

The Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act would facilitate the continuance of sustainable shark, skate, and ray fisheries (such as the ones in the United States) and improve international shark management by requiring that products from these fisheries imported to the United States are allowed only from countries that have conservation management laws and enforcement of those laws that are comparable to that of the United States. This requirement will contribute to the worldwide conservation of sharks and further advance the United States in its position as a world leader in sustainable fisheries management.

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Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation.

Hearing/speech-impaired:
800-955-8771 (T)
800 955-8770 (V)

Sincerely,

MyFWC.com

Eric Sutton
Executive Director