

# International shark finning regulations



## **Brazil**

Fins and carcass may be landed separately, but fins must weigh no more than 5% of the whole weight of the body.

Illegal to unload, trade, keep, process or transport fins whose weight does not conform to this ratio.

Fins and carcasses must be weighted upon arrival at port and all fins must be unloaded.

It is illegal to keep on board any shark fins from a previous trip.

## **Costa Rica**

Sharks must be landed with fins attached.

Moves to allow separation and use of weight ratio (as per Brazil).

## **Ecuador**

Total prohibition on shark finning.

## **Oman**

Strictly forbidden to throw any shark part or shark waste in the sea or on the shore.

Prohibited to separate shark fins and tails unless this is done according to the conditions set by the competent authority.

## **South Africa**

Sharks must be landed with fins attached if they have been landed in South African waters.

Fins from sharks caught in international waters may be landed separately from the carcass.

(Enforcement problems.)

## **The USA**

Fins and carcass may be landed separately but fins must weight no more than 5% of the “dressed” weight of the shark (headless and gutted). In cases where the 5% ratio is inappropriate (presumably where the species is exceptional), there is a derogation allowing the correspondence of fins to carcasses to be measured in terms of the number of fins per carcass, rather than weight.

## **The EU**

Sharks should be landed with fins attached.

Masters of vessels can apply for a “special fishing permit” to allow on-board removal of fins provided the fins weigh no more than 5% of the whole weight of the shark.

## **Australia**

### Commonwealth waters (3 – 200nm)

Finning is banned in tuna longline fisheries + all commonwealth fisheries where sharks are caught incidentally.

### New south Wales

June 1999 – all sharks must be landed with fins attached, but allowed to be cut into portions.

All portions, except head gills and gut, must remain on board until vessel berths.

### Northern Territory

Total ban on incidental take of sharks or shark products in a range of commercial fisheries.

### Queensland

December 2002 – ban on finning.

No sharks to be taken by trawl fishery.

Possession of sharks in other fisheries requires sharks to be divided in a manner that allows inspectors to count the number of sharks.

Prohibited to take, possess or sell shark fin unless authorised.

### South Australia

Finning reg.s under consideration

### Tasmania

November 2001 – shark finning banned.

All fins must be landed with the corresponding body.

### Western Australia

October 2000 – ban on possession or landing of any shark other than a whole shark.

### Victoria

1972 – all sharks must be landed with all fins attached.

Also finning positions in:

**Canada**

**Mexico**

**Colombia**

**Nicaragua**

**Palau**

**Spain**