Curbing the Global Fin Trade: 2019 Laws Banning the Sale of Shark Fins

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Shark Finning v. Shark Fin Trade

- **Shark Finning**
  - The removal of a shark’s fins at sea, often while the animal is still alive, and discarding the finned animal at sea
  - Allowed to bring a shark to shore and cut off its fins to sell

- **Shark Fin Trade and What Laws are Trying to do:**
  - Prevent People From Selling Shark Fins
  - Tries to curb the global shark fin trade
Importance of Sharks

- **Ecological Standpoint:**
  - Apex Predators
  - Regulate the Ocean

- **Economic Standpoint**
  - Shark Eco-Tourism
  - Harm to Local Economies
Canada

- **Existing Laws:**
  - 1994 Canada Made Shark Finning Illegal

- **New Laws:**
  - In 2019 Canada made it illegal to import or export shark fins
  - Regulated under Fisheries and Oceans Department

- **Why the Change?**
  - Awareness credited to Robert Stewart
United States

**Existing:**
- Prohibits Shark Finning.
- Certain States Have Banned Shark Fin Sales (California)
  - Chinatown Neighborhood Association Case

**New Proposed Law:** Prohibit Sale of Shark Fins
- Under this new proposed law a person cannot sell a shark fin.
- Under this new proposed law a person cannot bring a shark to the land and kill it to then sell the fins
- Fine for this proposed new law is a civil penalty of $100,000 or the fair market value of the fins, whichever is greater
The National Ban

- Will a national ban help stop the killing?

- USA Role in Global Fin Trade
  - NRDC Report
  - Savannah, Port of L.A., Port of Oakland, Port of Honolulu, Seattle Airport, and Miami Airport

- Driving Sales Underground

- Role of Shark Meat