



世界自然基金會
香港分會

WWF-Hong Kong

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Legislative Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
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25 May 2018

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

Re: shark fin trade in Hong Kong

Further to our submission made earlier, we would like to add this additional information regarding shark fin trade and conservation in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong accounts for about 40% of the global shark fin trade annually. It is very essential for HKSAR government to implement effective regulation to stop illegal shark fin trade.

Currently, the HKSAR government is implementing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) to fulfill the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). WWF is glad to learn that HKSAR government has increased the penalty for those who have violated Cap. 586. While it is questionable if the ordinance can act as deterrent to illegal shark fin trade. In addition, there has been seizure of CITES Appendix II listed shark fin recently, and this raises real concern that some traders may seek to circumvent CITES regulation, hence compromising Government's effort in monitoring and regulating CITES listed shark species.

According to the HKSAR government, there was quite a few suspected scheduled shark fin found in the past few years, but none of the cases were being prosecuted. WWF suggests the government to take wildlife crime seriously, such as to bring the existing ordinance (Cap. 586) under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455). That will definitely empower the enforcement of tackling wildlife crime.

together possible™

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註冊名稱 Registered Name: 世界自然(香港)基金會 World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong
(於香港註冊成立的擔保有限公司 Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability by guarantee)



Shark is being overfished globally. Governments around the world are responding. Since February 2015, the Indian government has banned shark fin import and export. However, as reflected by the shark fin trade data obtained from the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong, India was reported to be exporting a huge amount of shark fin to Hong Kong. For example, from 2015 to 2017, 157,825 kg of dried shark fin, with declared value of HK\$54,361,000 originated from India was reported to have exported from India and directly went to, or indirectly via other countries, Hong Kong. This highlights the needs that sourcing and consumption cities should work closely for information sharing. Only by working together, both governments are able to identify the key persons/organisations that involve in such trans-national crime or organized crime.

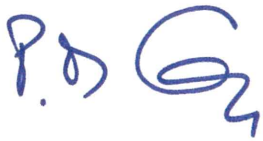
To conclude, WWF recommends the Government to:

- (1) Enhance and strengthen investigation on suspected wildlife crime cases. The government shall explore the feasibility to bring Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455)
- (2) Regarding shark fin products illegally sourced and get imported into Hong Kong, the Government should strengthen communication with shark fin source countries. Information sharing shall include at least the trade route, shipper and consignee names, and carrier names. Only by doing this, governments can then identify the key persons/organisations that have been involved. The Government shall formulate specific unit to keep abreast of relevant national regulation in trading shark fin and to act as an information centre. In that case, relevant department of the Government can ride on the information to immediately identify and take action to tackle such import of illegally sourced shark fin, through collaboration among departments and NGOs in Hong Kong and with other relevant agency outside Hong Kong (e.g. at source countries). The scope of this work should also cover commodities beyond shark fin.
- (3) Go beyond the minimum requirements of CITES in monitoring trader stockpiles of pre CITES listed shark fin, and ensure that illegally imported shark fin is not mixed with pre-CITES listed shark fin. The fact that AFCD's procedures for monitoring pre-CITES elephant ivory (an Appendix I listed species and therefore subject to tighter controls) were not sufficient to prevent illegally imported ivory being mixed with pre-CITES material, and also that several large seizures of illegally imported CITES Appendix II listed shark fin have already been made in Hong Kong, raises a very real concern that some traders may seek to circumvent CITES regulations. If this were to occur over a period of time, as with ivory, the government may be left with little option but to ban the imports

of CITES Appendix II listed shark fin and require traders to divest their stocks within a defined period of time.

We hope our views will be considered by the Panel.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Cornthwaite
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