



Panel on Environmental Affairs (Agenda) 28 May 2018

Susan Millward

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From: Susan Millward [REDACTED]

To: "panel_ea@legco.gov.hk" <panel_ea@legco.gov.hk>

Dear Madame Chair,

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments for the Panel on Environmental Affairs. Our comments relate specifically to sharks in Hong Kong. AWI is an animal advocacy organization founded in 1953 working to reduce the harm and suffering caused by humans to animals. We have been working on protecting sharks for over a decade and principally work to educate our constituents and others about the vital role that sharks play in the marine ecosystem. We also are working to make people aware of the great suffering caused by shark finning and work on educating consumers about the role they can play in making choices about patronizing places that serve shark fin soup and other shark fin products. For more information please visit our shark fin webpages at <https://awionline.org/content/shark-finning>.

We greatly appreciate the efforts made by the government of Hong Kong to protect elephants and we were thankful for the successful passage of the ivory ban in January. We hope that similar efforts to control trade can be made in Hong Kong for shark fin.

We support a total ban on shark fin trade in Hong Kong as we believe that only a total ban can effectively ensure that shark populations survive into the next century. Until a total ban is in place we support a mandatory labelling scheme on shark fin products being sold in Hong Kong and a tightening up of existing control and regulation mechanisms on the Hong Kong shark fin trade. We strongly encourage a strict permitting system of shark fin traders to be administered and enforced. We also advocate an annual reporting system to ensure that no endangered shark species are allowed to enter the trade and for Hong Kong shark fin traders to be required to report annually on the exact numbers and species of shark species being imported in Hong Kong.

With appreciation for the opportunity to provide out comments on this important matter,

Sincerely,

Susan Millward
Director of Marine Programs