

Southeastern Fisheries Association
Serving the Southeastern Seafood Industry since 1952



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RESOLUTION CONCERNING DOMESTIC SHARK FISHING January 24, 2019

WHEREAS, the domestic US shark management program utilizes the best management practices in the world, any shark fin ban legislation is not warranted, and,

WHEREAS, domestic commercial shark fishermen are federally licensed and required by law to land the entire shark and record every species of shark harvested by size, harvest area and type of gear, and,

WHEREAS, when the minimal domestic harvest quotas are reached specific to the species or zone, they are immediately closed by NOAA/HMS, and,

WHEREAS, there has been no domestic shark finning for years due to regulations (shark finning being the removal of fins from a shark and discarding the rest of the shark is not a process that American shark fishing boats follow) and,

WHEREAS, the government and academic scientists have testified to Congress and state legislatures that the domestic shark fisheries are sustainable, and the stocks have increased significantly because of NOAA management, and,

WHEREAS, there is no reason or justification to punish the commercial fishermen, fishing infrastructure, licensed seafood dealers, seafood restaurants and fishing communities including the businesses that provide fishing gear, fuel, packaging, bait, ice and trucking,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Southeastern Fisheries Association in convention assembled, strongly recommends that instead of punishing the domestic shark fishermen who provide safe and sustainable seafood by utilizing the entire shark, that the Trump Administration restrict the import of seafood to the United States from any nation not having a sustainable shark management plan approved by NOAA as was done concerning the importation of shrimp from countries until Turtle Excluder Devices were required for their shrimp industry.

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