

NEW FEATURE!
**UP FOR A ROUND?
 BOOK A TEE TIME...**



THE VANCOUVER SUN



ONLINE NOW
**TWILIGHT
 STARS AT
 COMIC-CON**

Activists protest to ban shark fins in China Town

BY MEDHA, VANCOUVER SUN JULY 9, 2011

[Tweet](#)

[ShareThis](#)

[STORY](#) [PHOTOS \(2\)](#)



[More Images »](#)

Environmentalist Anthony Marr (right) launches a campaign at the Beijing Trading Co. Ltd to ban shark fins.

Photograph by: Nick Procylo, Vancouver Sun

A group of local community organizations and activists came together in China Town Saturday morning in support of a ban on shark fins.

Shark fin soup has been served as a delicacy for centuries in China and elsewhere and is a huge status symbol often served at wedding banquets.

The demand has been so huge, that it has led to the virtual decimation of the species. Shark populations worldwide have been in decline and as many as 73 million are thought to be traded annually for their fins triggering a conservation crisis.

"The removal of the top predator from the oceans is bound to have serious consequences," said Anthony Marr, a Chinese Canadian animal rights activist who is campaigning for the ban. He has previously been involved with campaigns leading to the ban of products containing tiger bone, bear bile and rhino horns.

Claudia Li, the founder of Shark Truth, an organization that has been involved in grassroots efforts to stop shark fin use within the Chinese-Canadian community said that she supported the idea of ban, but felt that cultural sensitivity was needed in addressing the issue. "Most vendors dealing in shark fins here in China Town are low and middle income operators," she said, "we need to work at making the community aware rather than antagonizing them. That only burns bridges."

Shark Tooth has been involved in an innovative project that asks young couples to publicly pledge that they will not serve shark fin soup at their wedding banquet and offers them a chance to win a honeymoon trip.

RELATED TOPICS

- ▣ [Asia](#)
- ▣ [China](#)
- ▣ [East Asia](#)

EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

SUMMER GIVE AWAY 2011

CLICK HERE!

HOT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

[NEWS](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[ENTERTAINMENT](#)
[BUSINESS](#)

[More photos »](#)

MOST POPULAR NEWS

[MOST READ](#)
[E-MAILED](#)
[COMMENTED](#)

- ▣ [Family of four dies in brutal Highway 93 crash](#)
- ▣ [Norway massacre: Anders Behring Breivik writes 1,500-page manifesto](#)
- ▣ [Fatal accident south of Burnaby's 8-Rinks](#)
- ▣ [Norway massacre suspect calls deed necessary: lawyer](#)

The project said Li has been hugely successful, "It has been a slow process but the younger generation is embracing the change — now it has become rather unstylish to serve the shark fin soup at weddings."

Yvonna Tsang, the owner of Beijing Trading Company, a shop that still stocks the delicacy said that she has seen demand go down in the past few years and is herself considering not to stock the product any longer.

The younger generation is far more aware she said, admitting that she herself wasn't aware of the harm caused by the practice until she saw the documentary Sharkwater on television.

Bans help, but working at a grassroots level is the best way forward, said Mike McDermid, of Ocean Wise, a Vancouver Aquarium conservation initiative over a phone interview, "as demand goes down, so does the incentive for stocking and trading in the product."

Recently, Brantford, Ontario became the first municipality in Canada to ban shark fins.

© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun

[E-mail this Article](#) [Print this Article](#) [Share this Article](#)

[The silencing of a songbird: overdose suspected in death of Winehouse](#)

[Vandalized eighth green brings police to Canadian Open course](#)

[more »](#)

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on breaking news from The Vancouver Sun.

[SUBMIT](#)

[Our Privacy Statement](#)

MORE LIFE HEADLINES »



The perfect summer meal

We've collected the best summer recipes to ensure your next meal is delicious from start to finish.

COMMENTS ()

[Photos: Haute flip-flops](#)

['Air-conditioned clothes' help Japan beat heat](#)

[Photos: Caffe Swimwear - Miami Fashion Week Swim 2012](#)



INSIDE THE VANCOUVER SUN



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Life](#) [Health](#) [Technology](#) [Travel](#) [Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Homes](#) [Classifieds](#)

DON'T MISS

[Murdoch Scandal](#)
[CFL pool](#)
[Riot videos](#)
[Summer Guide](#)
[Vancouver 125](#)
[Harry Potter Quiz](#)
[eStore](#)
[Today's Paper](#)
[Video](#)
[SwarmJam](#)

MOST POPULAR

[Family of four dies in brutal Highway 93 crash](#)
[Norway massacre: Anders Behring Breivik writes 1,500-page manifesto](#)
[Fatal accident south of Burnaby's 8-Rinks](#)

FORMATS

[Sitemap / RSS](#)
[Contests](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Columnists](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Videos](#)
[Mobile](#)
[iPad App](#)

VANCOUVER SUN

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Work for Us](#)
[Advertise with Us](#)
[Subscribe to the Print Edition](#)
[Rate Our Delivery Service and WIN](#)
[Newspaper in Education](#)

TOOLS

[SEARCH](#)
[Search for a Job](#) [Place a Classified Ad](#)
[Buy/Sell a Car](#) [E-mail Alerts](#)
[Real Estate Listings](#)
[SwarmJam Sweet Deals](#)