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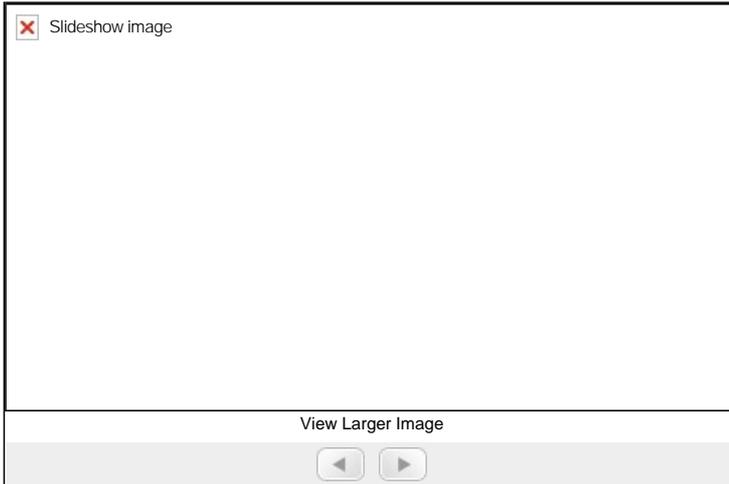
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No soup for you: May urges shark fin ban



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By: Sarah Massah, [ctvbc.ca](#)
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Green Party Leader Elizabeth May is calling for a ban on the possession and trade of shark fins in Canada.

May, the MP for B.C.'s Saanich-Gulf Islands, held a press conference Monday to denounce the controversial yet common practice. Shark fin soup, considered a delicacy in Chinese culture, can be found in restaurants all over the world, including Vancouver.

"The shark populations of this planet's oceans are declining so rapidly that it constitutes an emergency," said May.

She urged attendees to sign a petition that she plans to present to the House of Commons.

The Green Party leader is not the first Canadian politician to urge for a ban on shark fins. Brantford, Ontario, passed Canada's first shark fin soup ban in May, and nearby Oakville followed suit two months later.

Toronto has proposed a ban for shark fin soup in city restaurants, but has received backlash from the Toronto Chinese Business Association.

The process of harvesting the fins is a violent one. After being captured, shark fins are sliced off while the animal is still alive. It is then dumped back into the ocean with fatal injuries, according to Shark Truth founder Claudia Li.

Shark fin soup is believed to have health benefits, such as increasing appetite and improving kidney, bone and lung health. Some believe it increases sexual potency.

It is commonly served at weddings and is considered a sign of wealth in Chinese culture. Depending on the grade, bowls of shark fin soup can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$3000.

But despite the long-lasting tradition, Li said there needs to be a change.

"I think there are other things that we can use to show off in our culture and this is one of the things we need to let go of," said Li, who is of Chinese descent.

It is estimated that over 70 million sharks are killed each year for their fins. According

Selected Comment

“ What a disgusting practice. I am boycotting any herbs or ingredients sold in ANY store selling shark fins. ”

talking about
No soup for you: May urges shark fin ban

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to Greenpeace, the overfishing could also have detrimental results on the world's oceans. Many shark species are top predators and their eating habits keep the structure and composition of the marine ecosystem in balance, according to its website.

In the United States, Hawaii has banned the controversial dish and California is gearing up for a battle with a proposed ban.

In 2006, Chinese basketball superstar and NBA great, Yao Ming, spoke out against the hunting of sharks for their fins. Ming swore off shark fin soup and appeared in a WildAid PSA to raise awareness on the practice.

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 Comments are now closed for this story	
Jim-Surrey said 0   0	And WE pay her for her to come up with this? There are a lot more important issues that a Chinese delicacy soup, which by the way is very tasty. Hey Green you gotta do better than that!!!!!!
tired of socialists said 0   0	More enviro-nazis at work. Soon they will ban everything that humans cosume. I say we ban the Green Party and all their followers.
Russel Horwitz said 0   0	Thank-you Elizabeth for for taking a stand on putting the preservation of our life support system ahead of the destructive cultural norms of a small segment of society. You are a real credit to this country and I hope you succeed with this campaign!
disgusted said 0   0	What a disgusting practice. I am boycotting any herbs or ingredients sold in ANY store selling shark fins.
Nature / animal advocate-enough is enough ! said 0   0	Ban it. It is terrible to see what happens to the sharks. They literally drown without their fins. These ideas that these cultures/nationalities have is really outrageous. It is unbelievable. To anyone hurting/killing animals etc. all for the sake of money, greed and stupid thoughts should be made to suffer the same that they do to these poor animals. Makes you wonder what sort of other stuff they ingest damaging their brains that could perhaps put their thoughts way out to lunch (no pun intended- just using a gentle word instead of what I really want to say). To all people - STOP being cruel and killing animals for your own greed or suffer what you made the animals suffer. Enough is really enough !
justin said 0   0	Banning shark fins it like banning seal hunt in Canada....its just a tradition.... sure I know animals are getting treated badly but whats different about beating seals with a club. I for one don't care for shark fin soup, as a Chinese Canadian citizen, that is what I see.
JJ said 0   0	I am a young Chinese-Canadian. Most of the elders are the ones who desire Shark Fin soup -- it's a traditional dish that is eaten occasionally. There is a growing movement in many Chinese families, including mine, to cut consumption of Shark Fin soup. I'm not sure banning will solve the problem, but rather raising awareness about the issue and building a grassroots movement.
Spiltbongwater said 0   0	I love shark fin soup. I just don't think of the sharks that a finned alive, and thrown to the bottom of the ocean to live a painful 3-4 days.
SVCR said 0   0	OMG I am with Jim-Surrey, even though he gets thumbs down and I probably will to but since when do politicians tell what we can and cannot eat, especially a lone politician of a wannabe party. Next she will come up with you cannot eat fish and chips because the hooks and nets hurt the cod and halibut! What a joke May!!!!!!!!!!!!

<p>Raif said 0 0</p>	<p>What's next the pigs feet, or oxtail maybe?</p>
<p>Lisa said 0 0</p>	<p>What a pleasant surprise to see this! Congratulations Elizabeth May. I really do hope shark fin soup is banned in all of BC and all of Canada</p>
<p>Tired of socialists said 0 0</p>	<p>I also want to add how much I get off on the way the sharks are killed. It kind of makes the soup a little better, knowing that suffering happened for my meal. Anyone who thinks that's wrong is just a lefty loser. I can do what ever I want. I am more important that stupid nature and animals. I am a man. I dominate all.</p>
<p>Stacey said 0 0</p>	<p>@ SVCR: Politicians are not trying to tell us what we can or cannot eat. Do you have a problem with it being illegal to eat other humans? To kill your neighbour's cat and have it for dinner? Do you think we should toss out all these laws? Telling us what we can and cannot eat is NOT the issue. I suggest you watch the documentary Sharkwater, and maybe then you will understand the real reason behind various cities banning shark fin soup.</p>
<p>Jason said 0 0</p>	<p>Amazing how many ignorant comments and fallacies I'm seeing here. "there are more important issues, meaning some how this is NOT an issue at all" --Classic example of false logic"enviro-nazis.." -- Really???"it's tasty" I bet baby elephants are tasty too, but how does that have ANYTHING to do with endangerment?Have whatever opinion you wish, but at least debate it INTELLECTUALLY with a dash of maturity thrown in there for taste.</p>
<p>Canadian said 0 0</p>	<p>Who are we to discourage foreigners from bringing their ways here, whether we like it or not? As long as we encourage immigration from those parts of the world with those traditions, we have no right to complain.</p>
<p>Will said 0 0</p>	<p>And it was so nice and quite without that flake. Can't we just do without her for a while longer? Or is she trying to position herself as Layton's replacement?</p>
<p>Longleanlezzi said 0 0</p>	<p>Hey, Elizabeth! Don't you know that "carrot juice is murder"?! You really need to breath some oxygen & save what's left of your brain cells.</p>
<p>Plain-Jane said 0 0</p>	<p>this is another topic that will fall under the things the government should get rid of... like the HST; since that's done... i guess shark fin soup is next on the list... and then maybe human trafficking... when ever they get around to it...</p>
<p>tired of socialists said 0 0</p>	<p>NOTE TO THE EDITOR: Please delete the second comment left by someone using my commeting name. They may have capitalized the first letter in my name, however, they do so simply to pass the editors desk and confuse the public. You can always tell the level of maturity and desparation that some of these leftwing losers have when they seek to confuse the readers by copying someone elses name. How immature and childish. It gives them no credibility at all.</p>
<p>Andrew in Vancouver said 0 0</p>	<p>May was born in the U.S. and her family roots are in Eastern Canada. Of course she doesn't understand the Asian culture here on the West coast in the same way that I don't understand the seal culture over there. I don't eat sharks or seals but that is because I was raised on hamburgers and pizza. What meat dish is this half British Columbian going to try to ban next?</p>
<p>Millie M said 0 0</p>	<p>Good for Elizabeth May! Finally a politician with the balls to 'tell it like it is' I wish more politicians were like her. If we don't ALL act NOW there won't be anything left alive in our oceans. Banning shark fin soup in BC is the least we can do. It's a no brainer!</p>
<p>Charli61 said 0 0</p>	<p>The harvesting practices for Shark's fins are inhumane at best, we should ALL avoid anything containing shark's fin. If you haven't already done so, check out the videos that show exactly what is being done, and how. THEN you too will boycott the product I am sure!</p>

sherri gibson

said
0   0

Give me that petition, I will sign it, this is animal cruelty plain and simple. Thinking this is an acceptable way to treat a fellow species is just nuts. Most comments below are crass and full of ignorance on the subject. If you can add something constructive to the conversation, why bother? Our oceans need a balance and removing the top feeder in the food chain is causing problems in itself, only man can stop mans slaughter.

May

said
0   0

I would like it if the names of the restaurants could be listed so that I can be sure never ever to make the mistake of being a patron.

Claire

said
0   0

I support this initiative and it comes down to people understanding the ecosystem of the ocean. The extent to which sharks are being killed each year is atrocious. For anyone who wishes to educate themselves and learn more about the delicate ocean ecosystem and sharkfinning, then watch Sharkwater. Sharks keep the phytoplankton eating marine animals in check. Phytoplankton is what produces approximately 70 percent of the oxygen in the air that we depend on. People seem to forget in this era that politics need to include social issues and ENVIRONMENTAL issues. After all, we are nothing without the earth and the delicate ecosystems that exist on it. It is about time we start taking action to protect it. I support this cause based on a number of reasons, while people work at educating themselves about sharkfinning by watching Sharkwater, you might as well watch The Cove too.

CJ

said
0   0

Ever hear of albinos in Tanzania having their limbs cut off to be used in potions? Sick, right? Killing sharks for their fins is just as wrong and just as disturbing.

Will

said
0   0

CJ, you DO know the difference between humans and animal, right? Grow up.

**stupid
people-h8tr**

said
0   0

Hey Jim from Surrey and all you other dummy's that think its okay to cut off a sharks fins and leave it to drown so some other dummy can make soup... how about we line all you dummy's up and cut off your arms and legs and then throw you in the ocean. It would make the world a much better place!!

**Jim
O'Donnell**

said
0   0

I agree..this whole practice is revolting and it is beyond my comprehension that civilized people can do this sort of thing never mind condone it !!!! support the concept of boycotting any and all eating establishments that sell this product and any stores that sell anything related to this practice.

SB

said
0   0

Bravo- it's an archaic barbaric practice with absolutely no benefit. For those of you who say it tastes delicious- I can make broth with nails and shoelaces taste good. Shark fin itself is tasteless and has a gross texture, there are only perceived mumbo jumbo benefits, and as everyone mentioned, the harvesting practice is disgusting. How anyone can rationalize it, I have no idea. I'm not a crazy leftist tree hugger but it doesn't take a very humane heart to realize that shark fin soup should be banned. Personally, I encourage everyone to be active in their choices. Don't patronize places that have shark fin on their menu.

Wills

said
0   0

What nonsense being spouted here. But I did love the carrot juice is murder comment. The Arrogant Worms social commentary. Got to love it. As for May, yup-she's a major flake from the good ol' USA, represented here by her loyal following from downtown vancouver. (but what can you expect from a bunch who have never seen the real world and get all their learnin' from greenpeace brochures and david suzuki)

Matt

said
0   0

@ Tired of socialists How is that being an enviro-nazis? It's one of the most disgusting trades in the world. How would you like it if someone cut off your arms and legs and threw you in the ocean to die a terrible and pointless death?

Crankyman

said
0   0

I don't agree with May on most things but I agree 100% on this --- The Chinese don't even eat the fins for the taste, it's all about superstitions and old world Chinese traditions that have no place in a modern society - -- That also includes the use of other animal parts by the Chinese, time to stop living in fairy tales and the past !

mike

said
0   0

to bad she could'nt put a ban on immigates in b.c lol

<p>Allan (Dive Instructor) said 0 0</p>	<p>Show us the petition and I will sign it in a heart beat. Kill off the top of the food chain and we will not be far behind. It is time for more knowledge about sharks not some mumbo jumbo cultural beliefs. A world wide ban is the right thing.</p>
<p>Sick of the Right said 0 0</p>	<p>This is how we improve mankind's relations with nature, one bowl of soup at a time. Ban the fins!</p>
<p>tired of socialists said 0 0</p>	<p>It is so disappointing to read comments that equate human life to animal life. To you fools there doesn't seem to be any difference. What a sad world you live in where the life of a lower species is elevated to human status. The hypocrisy of it all is that you probably head to McDonald's for a burger without a second thought !</p>
<p>mb in abbotsford said 0 0</p>	<p>Canada already bans the sale of many animal parts traditionally valued by the Chinese such as tiger bones and bear gallbladders. Banning shark fin soup really shouldn't be so controversial given how rapidly shark populations are declining and how extremely wasteful the harvest is.</p>
<p>mb in abbotsford said 0 0</p>	<p>@ Justin - The comparison of shark finning to the seal hunt is pretty weak. Whether or not you agree with the seal hunt in Canada, at least it is regulated and managed by the government. Shark finning is more or less a free-for-all with very little (if any) controls over the harvest.</p>
<p>About Time said 0 0</p>	<p>I think this practice is disgusting and yes I am an Omnivore. I recommend that people watch "Gordon Ramsays Shark Bait". It's available on Youtube. This is not just selected fishing, but they maim/kill anything that gets on the hooks like turtles. Gordon's program shows you how great the scale is of the kill and the lengths of protection those involved will go to keep this practice undercover. I think all politicians should draw attention to this. At least when most animals we eat are killed, their whole body gets used for some purpose. Imagine if we just killed cows for their legs and left them to bleed to death in fields. That is what is happening with the finning process.</p>
<p>cheguevera said 0 0</p>	<p>We invest millions in the environment, animal protection and stand for justice, but we still allow few heartless people, driven by selfishness and ego, to kill millions of animals just for the sake of a few minute of taste. BAN IT!</p>

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