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Could Toronto shark fin ban push Ottawa to pass a national law?



By John Size | Daily Brew – Wed, 12 Oct, 2011

Toronto could be the next locale where diners will no longer be able to sink their teeth into shark fins, following the lead [recently set in California](#) and Mississauga.

The issue of banning the sale and consumption of shark fins will be debated at city council Thursday, but staff is recommending the issue be sent to Ottawa for a more comprehensive national ban on the Asian delicacy.

Mississauga council [unanimously banned](#) shark fin products Wednesday, making it the largest city in Canada to institute such a law. Oakville voted in a similar ban in July.

Meanwhile, the [Toronto Star reports](#) the bill signed last week by the U.S. state's governor is being criticized as discriminatory to Asian culture because it targets only fins instead of the whole fish.

The cause has attracted some top Hollywood and sports celebrities including Leonardo DiCaprio and Chinese basketball star Yao Ming, who argue the demand for fins is decimating shark populations around the globe killing an estimated 73 million every year.

The fins typically sell for about \$600 per pound and are used in shark fin soup, a Chinese wedding delicacy.

Organizations such as [Shark Truth](#) are advocating for bans across North America and have targeted Toronto after California passed its legislation. An [online petition](#) was started to push Toronto City Council to pass a law.

Vancouver activist Claudia Li, founder of the Canadian Shark Truth organization, believes a city with the size and influence of Toronto could lead to a federal ban.

One Chinese business organization in Toronto supports the ban, but says it should apply to surrounding municipalities to avoid creating an uneven playing field.

The [Toronto Chinese Business Association](#) would like to see any such ban also applied to cities such as Markham, Ont.

(Getty Images)



Shark fins await delivery.

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Fiddle 2 weeks ago

Cutting the fins off of sharks and dumping them back into the water to die a slow agonizing death is barbaric and revolting. This UGLY, BRUTAL and INHUMAN practice that is done ONLY for "ego and luck" should be banned world-wide. How would these "humans" like their arms and legs cut off and be dumped in the water, unable to move, protect themselves, or survive? How "LUCKY" would they be then?



Smiley 2 weeks ago

Next move should be to protect the dogs it is still a delicacy in Asia....



John 2 weeks ago

Council stop standing on the fence, ban this brutal primitive,elusionist superstitious custom. It is unspeakable slow death to a helpless shark left with no fins and sink lifeless to the bottom of the ocean and fin soups are served to the wealthy for good luck.Stop the KILLING OF INNOCENT SHARKS.



Fiddle 2 weeks ago

KUDOS to Mississauga and ALL other jurisdictions that ban this barbaric, cruel and unnecessary "cultural habit". It is time for humanity to grow UP.



Greg 2 weeks ago

Bravo. Maybe the Chinese and Japanese will finally start to get it - you can't eat endangered animals into extinction.



Hung 2 weeks ago

shark fin soup,black bear paw soup,bear gall bladders,tiger penuses they sure love to eat other nations' animals mini body parts.how would they like it if i chowed down on panda teeth and leave the rest of the animal next to the great wall rotting?



Ralph 2 weeks ago

wHATS NEXT dog tail soup,... stop the cruelty



Ralph 2 weeks ago

Inhumane behavior to one of gods creatures



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Ty 2 weeks ago

Its time that we do something about our ocean life,beside killing every last fish in the sea!!!! Humans are just plain greedy,we need to be controlled.



Tich Vo 2 weeks ago

look at what chinese regime do to their people ! let alone about the sharks ! ban ban ban.... this move is the 1st step to straight up chinese minds .



Montezuma's Revenge 2 weeks ago

I strongly recommend everyone to watch a film created by a Canadian called "Sharkwater." In which he reveals the ugly truth about the shark fin industry.. it actually made me cry.



Wil 2 weeks ago

This would be one law that makes sense - especially given the sharp decline in global shark populations. Time both china & japan were held accountable for their eco crimes.



JR 2 weeks ago

if you eat a fin from a poor shark, you are an A HOLE !



2cents 2 weeks ago

Sharks are and should always be the keepers of the Oceans,with any luck they will be protected and around a long time after the fin eaters are gone...



C. Menstein 2 weeks ago

People are actually killing closer to 100 million sharks per year, just for the fins. They frequently chop off the fins and then dump the still-alive shark to die in the ocean. They don't even use the rest of the shark.

This is a great move by Toronto (and Mississauga and California), and hopefully the rest of North America follows. We need education about sharks to show that they aren't the maneaters that films portray; they're an endangered species.



SCOTT T 2 weeks ago

@vinmast...huh??? i realize your intentions are good but we need meat. our brains evolved because of meat. you owe your thought and imagination to meat, say" thanks meat!" do you think there was a tofu or soya counter around every other bush or rock for our ancestors? humans ate what was readily available. i dont think eskimoes would get very far eating snow do you?



SONNY 2 weeks ago

Good, they should have ban it long time ago!!!!!!



SCOTT T 2 weeks ago

hope law passes. this is such a stupid dish eaten as a status symbol. i hear it has no flavour, jello like testure and all you taste is the soup stock. such a waste. people who eat this should be ashamed



Pretsel 2 weeks ago

Humans need to respect every other species on this planet.We are all in this together we are all connected,the more we kill and destroy other species and our planet the more will be our children's suffering.We make extinct one species another will follow and so on and so on.At this moment in time we do not get it,but our children surely will.Humans are not immune to extinction.



Blueberry 2 weeks ago

Time to stop this primitive custom. There are many Asian people who also see this is cruel and stupid. If the Chinese men want to have a good marriage, they should not have countless mistresses, as they do.

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