

For Governments in Countries That Harvest and Supply Shark Liver Oil:

****Senegal, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, the Maldives, and Uruguay are among the most prominent current or historically significant suppliers of shark liver oil.**

Subject: Request to End Shark Liver Oil Harvesting and Trade

Dear (Insert Official Name and Title),

I am writing as a concerned global citizen regarding the harvesting and export of shark liver oil in your country. Shark liver oil, often used to extract squalene or squalane for cosmetics and personal care products, is primarily sourced from deep-sea sharks. Many of these species are already vulnerable or threatened due to slow growth and low reproductive rates, making them extremely susceptible to overfishing.

Current practices in the shark liver oil trade result in millions of sharks being killed annually. These apex predators play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, and their decline has cascading effects on coral reefs, fish populations, and overall ocean biodiversity. Continued exploitation threatens not only these shark populations but also the long-term health of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities dependent on them.

I urge your government to implement immediate measures to:

1. Ban the commercial harvest and export of shark liver oil.
2. Monitor and enforce sustainable fishing practices to protect vulnerable shark species.
3. Promote the use of plant-based or synthetic alternatives for squalene and squalane in domestic industries.
4. Educate businesses and consumers about the ecological impacts of shark-derived ingredients.

Taking these actions will position your country as a global leader in marine conservation, safeguard critical ocean ecosystems, and align with international agreements protecting endangered species, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I strongly encourage your government to act decisively to protect vulnerable shark populations, maintain marine biodiversity, and support sustainable economic practices. For more information about the importance of sharks, please watch the TED talk: “How Sharks Affect Us All” by Ocean Ramsey.

Sincerely,

(Insert Your Name)

(Optional: Insert Address and Email for Response)