

Subject: Request to Ban Shark-Killing Categories in Fishing Tournaments

Dear [Official's Name or Title],

I am writing as a concerned constituent and advocate for marine conservation to respectfully urge you to take action against the continued inclusion of sharks in competitive fishing tournaments within [City/County/State].

Recently, events such as the [Event Name ie: Alabama Deep Sea Rodeo] have featured sharks as prize categories — encouraging their targeted killing for sport, photos, and trophies. These events not only harm already vulnerable shark populations, but they also send a dangerous and outdated message to the public, especially youth: that killing apex predators for entertainment is acceptable.

This is not just an environmental issue — it's an ethical, cultural, and reputational one.

Why this matters:

- Sharks are essential to ocean health. As apex predators, they play a critical role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems, supporting the resilience of fisheries, and even aiding in carbon sequestration through the protection of seagrass beds.**
- Many shark species are declining rapidly. Over 100 million sharks are killed globally each year, with some populations down by over 90%. Recreational and tournament-driven kills contribute directly to these declines.**
- The tide of public opinion is shifting. More people — especially younger generations — are recognizing the intrinsic and ecological value of sharks. They are appalled by practices that reward their killing, and they want leaders who will protect wildlife, not allow its exploitation.**
- Scientific involvement doesn't justify harm. Some event organizers point to partnerships with researchers to justify shark inclusion. However, the data collected in these contexts can be gathered through non-lethal means, or from accidental takes, and this**

association is often used as a shield to maintain the event's legitimacy.

What I respectfully ask:

- 1. Introduce or support legislation that bans the inclusion of sharks as prize categories in fishing tournaments within your jurisdiction.**
- 2. Review existing permits and regulations that allow for such events, and implement conditions that prohibit targeted shark killing.**
- 3. Support community education and alternatives, such as shark conservation awareness programs, to preserve ocean culture while aligning with modern ethics and science.**

Allowing shark-killing events to continue not only undermines decades of conservation progress — it reflects poorly on local leadership in a time when environmental accountability is more important than ever.

Please take action to protect these keystone species and the future of our global ocean and ecosystems. I would appreciate a response detailing your stance and any potential plans to address this issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Address or District if relevant]

[Email or Phone Number]

[Optional: Title or Affiliation, or Organization Name]
