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Date XX/XX/XX

Dear xxxxxxxx

Re: Securing your support for the shark finning Early Day Motion No. 1195.

In 2003 the EU adopted a shark finning regulation (EC) No:1185/2003 prohibiting the removal of shark fins at sea. However, the UK is one of five EU Member States that, through the provision of Special Fishing Permits (SFP), still permit the removal of shark fins at sea. Consequently UK vessels land over 80 tonnes of shark fin per year. The Shark Trust is asking the UK government to cease the provision of SFP and to support the rapid implementation of the Community Plan of Action for Sharks.

Tabled by Martin Horwood, Shadow Environment Minister for the Liberal Democrats and co-sponsored by Richard Benyon (Conservative) and Russell Brown (Labour), the Shark Trust is securing support for this EDM.

EDM No: 1195

Shark Finning:

That this House notes that over 70% of UK sharks, skates and rays are categorised by IUCN as Threatened or Near Threatened with extinction, and the recent publication of the European Community Plan of Action for Sharks, and the context of EU legislation prohibiting the removal of shark fins at sea ((EC) No:1185/2003); believes the UK Government should build on the foundation of previous shark conservation actions and lead the way in Europe as a champion of shark conservation, promptly implementing effective shark conservation and management measures; further believes that, on no occasion should the UK government approve any derogation from the shark finning legislation in order to allow UK-registered vessels to remove shark fins at sea; further urges the Government to lead the way in Europe by ceasing provision of special permits to remove shark fins at sea, thus enforcing the original intention of the shark finning legislation, and supporting improved shark fisheries monitoring, management and conservation measures.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38316&SESSION=899>

The shark fin trade encourages unsustainable mortality and unacceptable levels of waste and it is imperative that the UK government complies with the original intent of the EU shark finning ban and ceases to permit the removal of shark fins at sea. As my local MP I urge you to sign up to this EDM and play your part in improving the conservation management for these vulnerable species.

Yours sincerely

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