

**THE SHARK  
ISSUE**

**ROXANNE  
WALSH**

# Words You Associate With Sharks (before presentation)



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# Why Are We So Afraid of Sharks?

For the majority, it's due to our human survival instincts to survive and flee things with teeth. What feeds that fear more is harmful media coverage and the several shark-based Hollywood movies highlighting negative contact between people and sharks.

Steven Spielberg apologized for creating the well known horror film, "Jaws" as after the movie released "the number of large sharks in the waters east of North America declined by about 50 percent." (Germain 4)

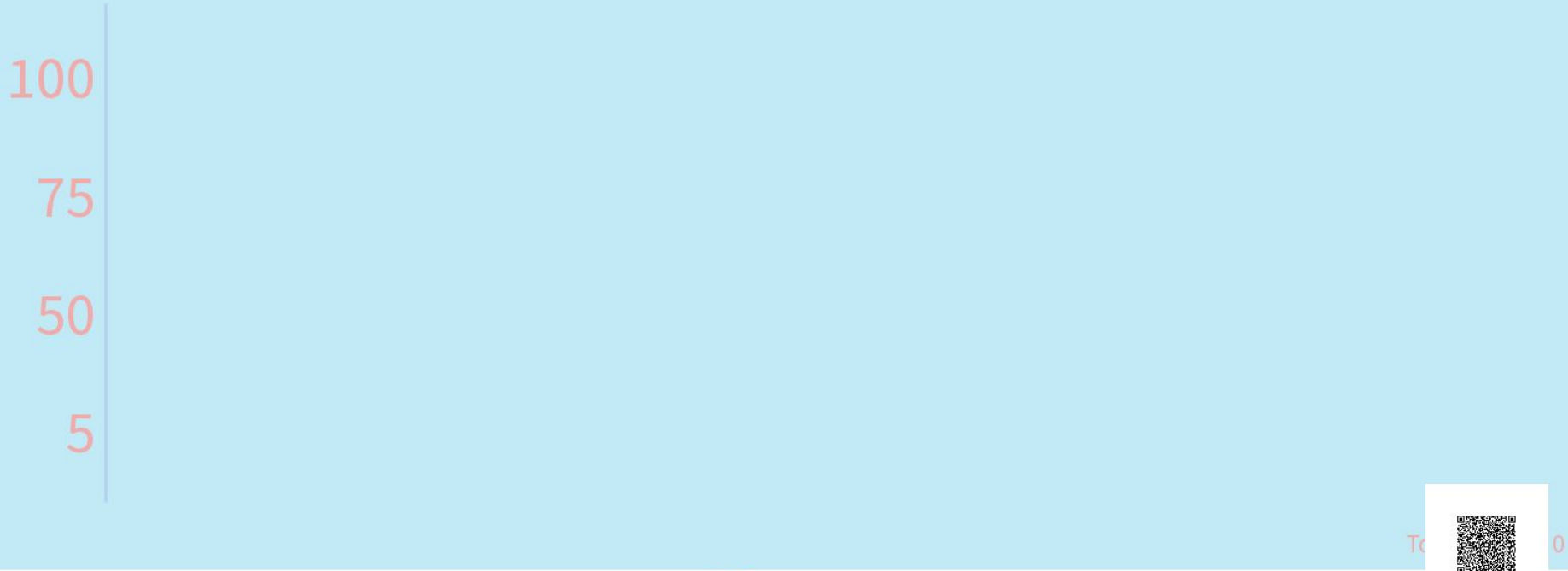
Roxanne Walsh interviewed Dr. Pilar Blanco, a marine biologist working at CMERA (Coastal Marine Education and Research Academy), and filmed as she gives her opinion about the topic.



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# About How Many People are Killed by Sharks Annually?

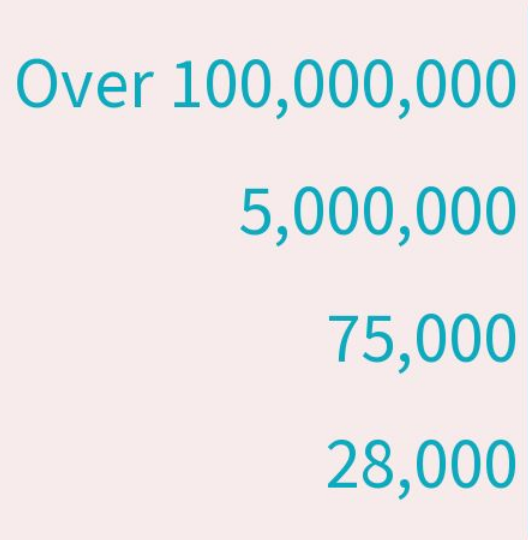


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# About How Many Sharks Are Killed Annually

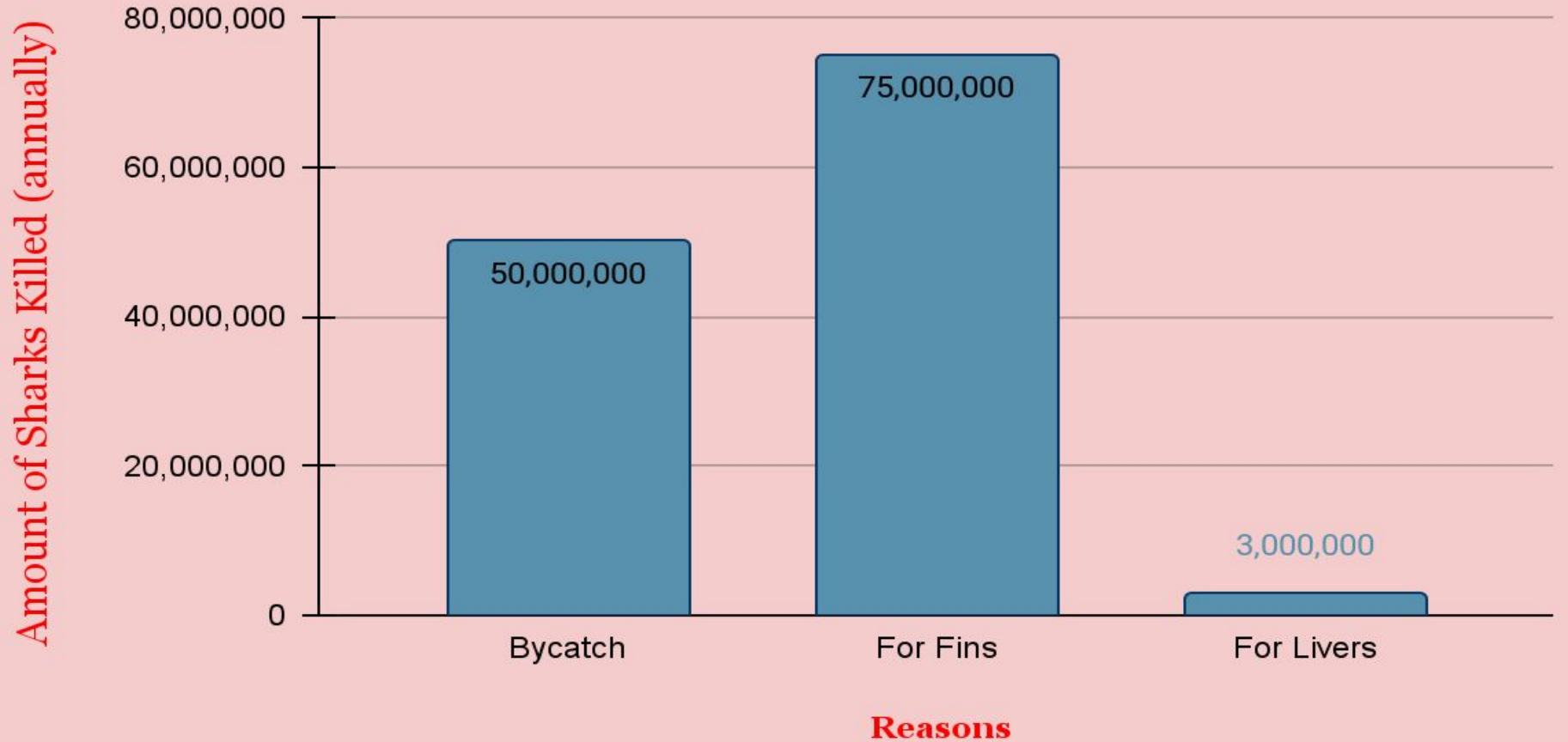


To



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# Different Reasons Sharks are Killed



# Bycatch

Bycatch is an unfortunately common event in big commercial fishing industries. Bycatch is where the wrong species, size or sex of an animal are caught instead of the intended or target catch. They are often just thrown back into the water injured and left to die.

The animals that are affected the most are sea turtles, marine birds, whales, dolphins, an assortment of porpoises, rays and you guessed it, sharks.



<https://courses.lsa.umich.edu/healthy-oceans/group-2/group-2-sub-1/>



<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.2018.359.6381.twis>



<https://www.dolphinproject.com/blog/minke-whale-drowned-in-set-nets/>

# Shark Finning

The process of shark finning starts with fishing sharks from the water cutting their fins off and throwing them back in (the rest of the shark isn't worth much which is why it's discarded). Without their fins the sharks are unable to swim and die slowly drowning and suffering from blood loss.

They are finned to make a well-known delicacy: shark fin soup. The soup is sold at high prices and is most traditionally eaten to show status and wealth.



<https://envhumanities.sites.pettysburg.edu/es225b-spring19/public-perception-of-the-great-white-shark/global-demand-for-shark-fins/>



<https://www.thebluesurfer.com/mag/sharks>



<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/03/03/390449252/why-shark-finning-bans-arent-keeping-sharks-off-the-plate-ve>



# Sharks and the Beauty Industry

Shark livering is a process very similar to finning where the shark is fished out of the water but instead of cutting off the fins the shark is cut completely open and the liver is removed. After this, the rest of the shark is dumped back into the water to suffer a grueling and painful death.

Shark livering is an easy way to harvest “squalene” which is an ingredient used for moisturizing, anti-aging and other desired properties. Squalene is often used in products like lipstick, eye shadow, and foundation. The unfortunate part about this is that this ingredient can be harvested from olives, amaranth seeds, rice bran, and sugar cane. Shark livering is more popular for business as it is less expensive to extract squalene from.



<https://www.100percentpure.com/blogs/featured/are-you-using-shark-liver-oil-on-your-face>



<https://eco-nnect.com/bloom-expose-beauty-and-the-beast-shark-in-our-beauty-creams/>

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/255245171091>



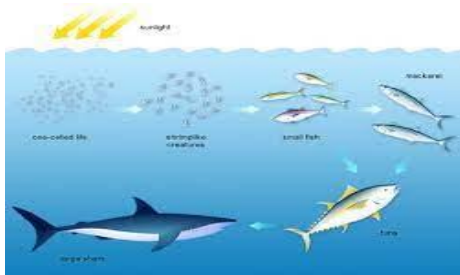
# Importance?

Sharks are a keystone species meaning every ecosystem they inhabit will be unbalanced if they disappear.

Sharks act as crowd control in the ocean keeping the food chain in check, making sure certain populations don't go over or under controllable sizes.

Most sharks even act as scavengers cleaning up the ocean by eating sick and dying animals, carcasses and other waste.

Without sharks the entire ocean would lack stability.



[https://sharktours-hawaii.com/blog/t](https://sharktours-hawaii.com/blog/topical-shark-myths/)

[topical-shark-myths/](https://sharktours-hawaii.com/blog/topical-shark-myths/)



<https://www.earth.com/news/nearly-two-thirds-of-coral-reef-sharks-and-rays-face-extinction/>



<https://www.oceanodiv.com/news-from-the-sea/coral-reef-2035>

# Shark Conservation

Shark conservation is the best way to keep shark populations safe from commercial fishing industries and other unnatural threats against them.

An example of this is La Jolla's marine protected area. The area is about 2 ½ miles wide across shore and 5 miles into the ocean and everything inside is protected by the state. It is illegal to damage, take, or fish anything from this area ensuring that the ecosystem remains healthy.

Because of this, the leopard shark population thrives and they stay near shore for a couple of months to feed without worry.

If we protect certain areas like this that other sharks inhabit then they will be able to survive on their own without issue and our populations will slowly heal themselves.



<https://lajolla.com/article/la-jolla-leopard-sharks-where-to-find/>



# How to Help

Here are some easy ways to help sharks from further endangerment:

1. Educate yourself through credible articles and documentaries
2. Check makeup products for Squalene and avoid using them
3. Sign petitions to help ban laws that allow shark fishing and the fin trade
4. Donate or volunteer with charities and conservations that protect sharks
5. Spread the word and encourage others how to help
6. Avoid eating seafood
7. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



# Words You Associate With Sharks Now



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The Shark Issue Website (Made by Roxie Walsh): <https://thesharkissue.com/>