

# House Bill 2838

Sponsored by Representative WITT (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Prohibits person from possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading or distributing shark fins.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to shark fins.

2  
3 Whereas sharks are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an important  
4 role in the ocean's ecosystem; and

5 Whereas sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to overfishing than most  
6 fish, and data from state, federal and international agencies show a decline in shark populations  
7 locally and worldwide; and

8 Whereas most sharks, unlike other fish, do not reach sexual maturity until seven to 12 years  
9 of age and then only give birth to a small litter of young; and

10 Whereas shark populations do not recover quickly once they are overfished; and

11 Whereas the practice of shark finning, in which a shark is caught, the fin is cut off and the  
12 shark is returned to the water, causes tens of millions of sharks to die a slow death each year; and

13 Whereas after a shark's fin is cut off and the shark is returned to the water some sharks starve  
14 to death, others are slowly eaten by other fish and some drown because most sharks need to keep  
15 moving to force water over their gills to extract oxygen; and

16 Whereas sharks are an essential element of the ocean's ecosystem, and by reducing the demand  
17 for shark fins, Oregon can help ensure that sharks will not become extinct; now, therefore,

18 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

19 **SECTION 1. Section 1 of this 2011 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 509.**

20 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "shark fin" means the raw or dried fin or tail**  
21 **of a shark.**

22 **(2) A person may not possess, sell, offer for sale, trade or distribute shark fins in this**  
23 **state.**

24 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2011 Act does not apply to shark fins possessed by a person**  
25 **on the effective date of this 2011 Act, except that the person may not sell, offer for sale,**  
26 **trade or distribute the shark fins.**

27  
**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.