



**Testimony in Opposition of HB 3429
Presented to
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources
Committee**

**Oregon Coast Aquarium
April 13, 2017**

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Of the varied threats facing our oceans today—acidification, overfishing, warming waters, epic volumes of land-based trash circling the globe, among others—the issue of wildlife trafficking is one we can make a clear choice on. By banning the sale and trade of certain animal parts in Oregon, we take a crucial step toward ending the commodified slaughter of sharks, rays, sea turtles, whales and other irreplaceable species around the globe. If we eliminate the market for such products here, we set an example for other states—and even nations—to follow suit.

Measure 100 is one of the strongest state-level measures in the country to curb wildlife trafficking and the illegal wildlife trade. The measure received the endorsement of newspaper editorial boards, local communities and organizations and elected officials across the state. Last year, Oregon voters overwhelmingly supported Measure 100 (69% in favor; 31% opposed). But a newly introduced bill threatens to flout the will of the people and undermine the measure's effect.

HB 3429 proposes to amend and reduce the list of animals covered by Measure 100; specifically, HB 3429 proposes to only cover those species listed on either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or that are listed as vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, extinct in the wild or extinct on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

HB 3429 would most dramatically reduce the number of shark and ray species covered by Measure 100.

According to the latest assessment of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, conducted by 302 experts from 64 countries, one fourth of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction. There are over 1,041 known shark and ray species. It is important to note that almost half of the assessed species are data deficient, meaning that information is insufficient to assess their population status or trend, which can preclude a CITES or IUCN listing.

A clear, bright line prohibiting the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell products of all shark and ray species makes compliance simpler for individuals and enforcement clearer for officials.

It is critical that all shark and ray species included in the Measure remain covered by the protections set forth in the Measure, and not only selected species, especially considering the overall threat to shark and ray species globally. Oregon should be part of the global effort to conserve shark and ray species by eliminating in-state trade and market demand for their products.

Thank you for considering our position, and for your service to the people and animals of Oregon.