



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
MARSHALL ISLANDS MARINE RESOURCES AUTHORITY
P.O BOX 860 • Majuro, Marshall Islands MH 96960

December 16, 2011

TO : CITES Secretariat
FROM : Jacob Appelbaum
SUBJECT : Republic of the Marshall Islands shark sanctuary

Dear CITES Secretariat,

I am writing in regards to the recent CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049. I would like to supply the following information pertaining to sections iii. and iv. for sharks. Our waters have been designated as a shark sanctuary prohibiting the commercial fishing of all sharks throughout our exclusive economic zone. In addition, we have implemented a ban on the sale of any shark or shark product. Our specific measures are attached for your records. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of further information.

Sincerely,

Jacob Appelbaum
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Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Republic of the Marshall Islands declared the world's largest shark sanctuary in October 2011. Key provisions of the comprehensive Marshall Islands law include:

- A complete prohibition on the commercial fishing of sharks as well as the sale of any sharks or shark products. A zero retention stipulation requires that any shark caught inadvertently by fishing vessels must be released, whether alive or dead.
- A ban on the use of wire leaders in order to reduce shark mortality.
- A monitoring and enforcement provision which requires all fishing vessels to transship their catch at an authorized port in the presence of an authorized officer.
- Large monetary fines ranging from US\$25,000 to US\$200,000 for anyone who violates these provisions. Fines will include an additional amount equivalent to the retail value of any confiscated shark fins.