



DATE:

Address:

Mr./Ms/Mrs. OWNER'S NAME:

I am writing to respectfully request – both for the health of our oceans and the health of your customers – you stop serving shark fin soup because:

The demand for shark fins is fueling an illegal, extinction trade.

The consumption of shark fin soup is pushing these magnificent animals to the brink of extinction. Sharks, slow to reproduce, cannot sustain the massive fishing pressures they are under – their numbers down by 95% in some regions. Over 73,000,000 sharks are killed a year, primarily for their fins. In 2009, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reported over 1/3 of all shark species are threatened with extinction. Many of the species commonly finned are considered endangered, vulnerable or near threatened and often are obtained illegally. Indeed, a large percentage of shark fishing around the world is illegal and supports a ruthless black market.

Serving shark fin soup is destroying our oceans – and our chances for survival.

Shark fin soup is directly contributing to the destruction of our most important ecosystem and is leaving a legacy of destruction for our future generations. At the top of the food chain, sharks keep the oceans in healthy balance. And, oceans provide more than 1/2 the world's oxygen, provide millions of people with food and income, control our planet's temperature and weather, and are one of our best weapons against global warming. Upsetting that balance can be catastrophic. The elimination of sharks has already resulted in disastrous knock-on effects regionally, including the collapse of fisheries and the death of coral reefs.

Sharkfinning is cruel and wasteful.

Because of their exponential value due to demand that outweighs supply, sharks are often killed for their fins. In a cruel practice called 'sharkfinning', sharks are caught often alive to have their fins brutally cut off. The rest of the shark is wasted, thrown into the ocean, to bleed to death, suffocate or be eaten alive.

Shark fin soup may be toxic.

While shark fin soup symbolizes health, it is actually unhealthy to eat and may contain dangerous toxins such as mercury. No scientific research proves consuming shark – including fins – provides any health benefits. Instead, studies prove that shark can contain high levels of poisonous mercury. Many organizations including the World Health Organization and the United States Food and Drug Administration warn against consuming shark due to high levels of dangerous methyl-mercury.

Now that you know the legacy of destruction that shark fin soup is causing, I hope you will agree whatever status, tradition and economics that come with having shark fin on the menu is not worth the cost. Please be socially and environmentally responsible, and think of our future generations.

Please join the growing movement to protect sharks – for your reputation, the health of our oceans, and our shared future. Please discontinue the selling all shark products immediately and beyond doing the right thing, we will also publicize and recognize your efforts. For more information, visit www.sharkangels.com.

Sincerely,

NAME:

Fin Free Chapter:

