



Shark connection

Germany has advanced the shark conservation debate on a global scale through groundbreaking, persistent efforts to list spiny dogfish ('spurdog') and porbeagle sharks under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Such action reflects a desire to act as a responsible shark consumer. The smoked belly flaps of spurdog (known as 'Schillerlocken') are particularly popular in German fish markets and beer gardens.



Landings and Trade of Sharks and Rays

Germany's 'shark' catches from European waters over the last 20 years have fluctuated, but have consisted mostly of dogfish, skates, and rays, as well as some deepwater shark species. Landings fell dramatically in 2006 and have since comprised only skates and rays. In recent years, the country's shark imports (dogfish as well as products from larger sharks) have been five to ten times higher than landings. Germany's imports and exports of shark products have been declining since about 1990.



Making Decisions in Europe

Germany has more Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) than any other EU Member State (99). Slightly less than 36% of these MEPs signed Written Declaration 71/2010 in support of strengthening the European Union ban on shark finning [Link to German MEPs who signed: http://www.sharkalliance.org/do_download.asp?did=36258]. Three German MEPs serve on the Parliament's Fisheries Committee; ten serve on the Environment Committee.

German MEPs signing the Written Declaration included Ulrike Rodust, the Socialists & Democrats' Coordinator within the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee, and Jo Leinen (also S&D), Chair of the Environment Committee.

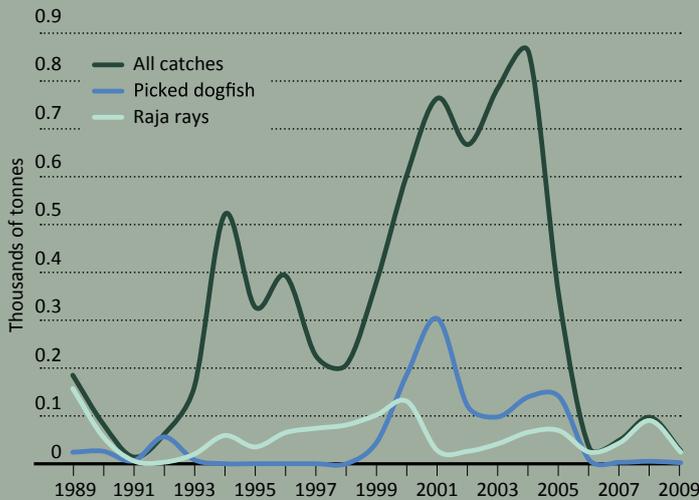
Germany is one of four EU Member States with 29 votes in the EU Fisheries Council, and therefore has considerable influence in this important decision making body.



Stance on the EU Finning Ban

Germany was one of the few EU Member States that took advantage of a derogation in the EU finning regulation to allow fishermen to remove shark fins at sea through special fishing permits. Germany stopped issuing these permits in 2008 and, therefore, now requires that all vessels land sharks with their fins still attached.

Landings and Trade Data



National Shark Conservation Measures

Germany has no special national protections for sharks and rays beyond measures that implement EU and international policies for these species



The Shark Alliance in Germany

German Groups here: <http://www.sharkalliance.org/content.asp?did=37015>.



More Info

- For more information please visit www.sharkalliance.org.



Call to Action

- Concerned citizens, particularly those of Germany, can help by expressing to German officials support for:
- active promotion for an EU-wide ban on at-sea shark fin removal
 - continued complete closure of EU porbeagle, spurdog, and deepwater shark fisheries
 - vigilance in the effort to list spurdog and porbeagle under CITES
 - immediate national protections for endangered shark and ray species, and
 - recording of shark and ray landings and trade by species and product.