



# Shark Fins Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 22

### 1 Prohibition on import and export of shark fins

- (1) It is prohibited—
- (a) to import shark fins, or things containing shark fins, into the United Kingdom as a result of their entry into Great Britain, or
  - (b) to export shark fins, or things containing shark fins, from the United Kingdom as a result of their removal from Great Britain.
- (2) The prohibition in [subsection \(1\)](#) does not apply where—
- (a) the shark fins are naturally attached to the body of the shark, and
  - (b) the body is substantially intact, ignoring any removal of the head and internal organs.
- (3) [The Schedule](#) contains provision for exemption certificates relating to the prohibition in [subsection \(1\)](#).
- (4) In [this section](#) and [the Schedule](#)—
- “shark fins” means any fins or parts of fins of a shark, other than the pectoral fins or parts of pectoral fins of a ray;
  - “shark” means any fish of the taxon Elasmobranchii.

### 2 Removal of shark fins on board fishing vessels

In Council Regulation [\(EC\) No 1185/2003](#) on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels, for Article 1 substitute—

*“Article 1*

*Scope*

This Regulation applies to the removal of shark fins, retention on board, transhipment and landing of shark fins:

1. by United Kingdom fishing vessels in any maritime waters;

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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2. by other fishing vessels in United Kingdom waters.”

**3 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) Section 1 and the Schedule come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (3) Section 2 comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make transitional or saving provision in connection with the coming into force of any provision of this Act.
- (6) This Act may be cited as the Shark Fins Act 2023.