



# "Shark Fishing Could be the Planet's Most Brutal Industry"<sup>1</sup>

Populations of shark species have plummeted since the 1970s, some by over 90 percent. Now, many are on the edge of extinction. Thresher sharks, which are often "prize-winners" in shark tournaments, were just added to the world wide threatened species list.<sup>2</sup>

This week's edition of the journal Science reported that "intense fishing for sharks has produced a cascade of unexpected effects. With fewer large predators in the sea, the number of rays, skates and small shark species has exploded, and these species are decimating shellfish populations."<sup>3</sup>

The Vineyard has always been a leader in preserving the environment. But tournaments such as the Oak Bluffs Monster Shark Tournament cause incredible suffering to sharks and damage ocean ecosystems.

Given the decimation of shark populations and the unmitigated cruelty of these tournaments, it would be irresponsible and shameful to allow shark tournaments to continue.

Take Action! There's still time to stop the tournament.  
Vote NO on April 12th.

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<sup>1</sup>The Guardian, April 3, 2007

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/02/22\\_pr\\_sharks.htm](http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/02/22_pr_sharks.htm)

<sup>3</sup>The Washington Post, March 30, 2007