



# THE SHARK-FREE MARINA INITIATIVE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SHARK-FREE MARINA INITIATIVE**  
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Patrick McDonnell  
Slash

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*The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation and The Humane Society of the United States team up with the Shark-Free Marinas Initiative For Historic Campaign*

(Oct. 19, 2010) — Beginning in October, the Shark-Free Marina Initiative will embark on its largest membership campaign throughout the United States and the Bahamas in order to save sharks. Sharks are disappearing from our oceans at an alarming rate. Therefore, the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, The Humane Society of the United States, and various other organizations have teamed up with the Shark-Free Marina Initiative (SFMI) for a singular, historic purpose: to reduce worldwide shark mortality. SFMI certifies sport fishing and resort marinas as 'Shark-Free' thereby prohibiting any shark from being landed at their dock. The SFMI team is being advised by Dr. Bob Hueter, Director of Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory and John Le Coq, co-founder of Fishpond USA.

"SFMI works directly with the recreational and commercial fishing community to send a clear message," says Luke Tipple, Managing Director and SFMI founder. "As shark populations are decimated on a global scale we as a species are obligated to pay attention and reduce our wasteful destruction of these incredibly important animals."

Dr. Guy Harvey, Founder of the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, strongly supports SFMI and believes this initiative is an effective way to reduce shark mortality. "We recently made our marina at the Big Game Club in Bimini Shark-Free" says Dr. Harvey." Dr. John Grandy, senior vice president, The Humane Society of the United States, enthusiastically supports the SFMI campaign. According to Dr. Grandy: "Although shark finning and commercial fishing are responsible for the majority of worldwide shark mortality figures, this campaign to encourage hundreds of marinas to go shark free can save tens of thousands of sharks each year and change perceptions about this much maligned creature."

Some very important and influential celebrity spokespeople are also teaming up with SFMI. Fashion photographer and America's Next Top Model judge Nigel Barker feels strongly that we all have to speak out for sharks. "There are many good fishermen out there who respect the oceans and know that in order to preserve their way of life for future generations we all need to be more aware of our actions and the results they may cause."

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Slash, legendary guitarist and founding member of Guns & Roses and Velvet Revolver adds, "It is important to me as a father and concerned human being, that we do all we can to address the wasteful destruction of these amazing and important animals. We must ensure that sharks are around for future generations."

Shark-Free Marinas has a message that is being heard worldwide. Tipple summarizes "Shark overfishing is a serious problem which threatens the very health of our oceans. It's time to take a stand and set an example of sensible conservation that can be globally respected and repeated. There is a solution, and it starts at our marinas."

The full list of advisors can be seen here: (<http://www.sharkfreemarinas.com/about/board>). Celebrity endorsements can be seen here:

<http://www.sharkfreemarinas.com/about/board/celebrity-endorsements>

For more information on the initiative, please click here ([www.sharkfreemarinas.com](http://www.sharkfreemarinas.com))

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization – backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty -- On the web at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).

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