



Write a policy brief

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for each slide.

Existing protections

Fisheries Administrative Order 193 (1998) banned the taking, catching, selling and trading of whale sharks and manta rays in the Philippines. Many shark species, including the requiem and hammerhead sharks that dominate the fin trade, are listed in CITES Appendix II, which requires trade to be legal and sustainable. Check the latest Philippine rules with BFAR before sharing specifics with students.

What the evidence suggests

The 2024 global study found that anti-finning laws did not reduce shark mortality, while regional shark fishing or retention bans had some success.¹

Sources

1. Worm, B. and others (2024). Global shark fishing mortality still rising despite widespread regulatory change. *Science* 383: 225-230.

Free to use and share for education. Made by Marine Conservation Philippines. More free lessons: marineconservationphilippines.org/resources/teachers-resources/ Updated September 2026.