



May 8, 2018

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Webster
United States House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Lieu
United States House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Rubio and Murkowski and Representatives Webster and Lieu:

Thank you for introducing the Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2018, which will reduce the overfishing and unsustainable trade of sharks, rays and skates around the world and prevent shark finning. As recreational fishing organizations committed to marine resource conservation, we applaud your efforts to strengthen the U.S.'s role in stopping the wasteful and inhumane practice of shark finning.

The nation's 11 million saltwater anglers and the thousands of recreational fishing-dependent businesses are proud of our community's strong conservation ethic. Recreational fishermen and the sportfishing industry are constantly striving to improve fishing practices that minimize harm to fish. Shark finning flies in the face of the sportfishing community's conservation ethic, and we fully support efforts – such as your legislation – to curtail this practice.

We recognize and appreciate your efforts on this important issue and on other policies and legislation shaping the management and conservation of fishery resources.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes, President
American Sportfishing Association

Jeff Angers, President
Center for Sportfishing Policy

Pat Murray, President
Coastal Conservation Association