

**KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY  
OFFICIAL PROPOSAL**

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Proposal #: **33**

Assignment: **G**

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Country: **Japan**

School: **Beechwood MS** City: **Ft. Mitchell**

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Title: **An act to increase awareness of shark finning for shark fin soup in Asian countries.**

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Justification Clause: Shark finning, a secretive, destructive operation in Japan and many other countries worldwide, is unbeknownst to many as such. The vicious hunters catch the sharks in nets, cut off the pectoral fins, and launch them into the water, where they slowly sink to the bottom. The last scene is hundreds of sharks lying on the ocean floor, dying or already the victim of a slow, painful death. The hunters take their boat back to port, and sell the fins to local restaurants and shops, where the bounty is made into shark fin soup, a delicacy to natives and tourists alike. At Garden Hotel, a local five-star hotel, a bowl of shark-fin soup is sold at 600 yuan (US\$72), and the hotel can sell 50 bowls a day. The consumer has unknowingly paid a premium to waste the life of a shark, for the fin was used only to flavor the expensive dish. Not only this, but they poison themselves as well. "Shark fin soup may cause sterility because of mercury and other heavy metals contamination," said Victor Wu, an officer at WildAid, an international wildlife protection organization, "and the risk to men is much higher than women." Lots of marine organisms have been contaminated by mercury polluted sea water, especially in the Pacific Ocean.

Shark Fin Soup is consumed at weddings, banquets, and other special events; it is considered a luxury. 20 countries account for 80% of the global shark catch, according to the Pew Environment Group. The top catching nation is Indonesia, followed by India, Spain and Taiwan. Japan lies in 9th place, with an annual average catch of almost 25,000 tons. Because the deleterious shark finning industry is so unfortunately large, everyday people must be educated on this, as well as the tax it takes on the surrounding oceanic ecosystem.

Section I: The nations which ratify this proposal shall require that secondary schools in their country educate their students on the dangers of shark finning and shark fin soup. A 30% Tax paid by the restaurants (estimated at \$22 per bowl) to the government will be placed on the soup. This will raise the cost of shark fin soup, and will decrease the number of fins taken by fishing companies. The tax will be used to continue education and help preserve the ocean ecosystem.

Section II: The best way to eradicate shark finning is to diminish the demand. By decreasing the demand, fishing companies will not have uses for their fins, and will stop finning. This affects seventeen countries bordering the ocean, as well as other countries worldwide that rely on the Pacific Ocean Ecosystem. Multiple groups have tried to prevent shark finning by making it illegal. The way we propose, by educating the people, will help them understand what they are doing to themselves by consuming shark fin soup.

Section III: This proposal will go into effect on January 1, 2014.