Endangered sharks and rays get more protection

27th August, 2019

There is international agreement on the protection of 18 threatened species of sharks and rays. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) agreed on Sunday to give greater protection for the marine creatures from actions such as commercial fishing and hunting. Many of the threatened species are hunted for their meat and fins. Some of the species being protected are the world's fastest shark (the mako shark), wedgefishes and guitarfishes. Luke Warwick of the Wildlife Conservation Society said: "Sharks are vulnerable wildlife....Momentum is clearly building to ensure that these species, which have been around for 400 million years, continue to be around for future generations."

CITES is an international treaty established in 1973 to protect endangered animals and plants. It has been signed by 182 different states, plus the European Union. There was not widespread agreement at the weekend's meeting. The focus of the meeting was on protecting sharks. The number of sharks killed each year by commercial fishing is estimated at 100 million. One conservation group said this figure could be as high as 273 million. Forty countries disagreed that the mako shark was in danger. They argued that there was not enough evidence to show that mako was disappearing as a result of fishing. The global shark fin market is estimated to be over $1.2 billion.

Sources: *ctvnews.ca / bbc.com / nationalgeographic.com*

Writing

We cannot prevent the extinction of many sharks. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

international / sharks / marine / creatures / fishing / wildlife / species / future / treaty / endangered / agreement / meeting / conservation / shark fin / estimated

True / False

a) Over 20 different species will now be protected. T / F

b) Many sharks die because people want to eat their fins. T / F

c) Wedgefish and guitarfish are also on the protected species list. T / F

d) Sharks have been on Earth for about 400,000,000 years. T / F

e) The animal protection treaty in the article first started in 1953. T / F

f) The treaty has been signed by 182 states. T / F

g) Over 275 million sharks are killed every year. T / F

h) The global shark fin soup market is worth over $2 billion a year. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**international**	a.	animals
2.	**threatened**	b.	predicted
3.	**creatures**	c.	set up
4.	**vulnerable**	d.	contended
5.	**momentum**	e.	endangered
6.	**established**	f.	proof
7.	**widespread**	g.	global
8.	**estimated**	h.	impetus
9.	**argued**	i.	weak
10.	**evidence**	j.	universal

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) How important are wildlife treaties like CITES?

c) What do you think of the commercial fishing of sharks?

d) Do sharks have a good or bad image?

e) What three adjectives best describe this article?

f) What will our oceans be like in 100 years?

g) Would you do anything to help conserve sharks?

h) What questions would you like to ask the boss of CITES?

Phrase Match

1. the protection of 18
2. marine
3. hunted for their meat
4. Momentum is clearly
5. be around for future
6. CITES is an international
7. signed by 182 different
8. commercial
9. there was not enough evidence
10. estimated to be

a. and fins
b. states
c. fishing
d. creatures
e. building
f. to show that
g. over $1.2 billion
h. generations
i. treaty
j. threatened species

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you know about sharks?
b) Why are sharks endangered?
c) How can we better protect sharks?
d) What do you think of shark fin soup?
e) What countries should do more to help marine life?
f) Should the hunting of sharks and rays be banned?
g) Do you think sharks have a long future on earth?
h) What would you say to people who fish for sharks and rays?

Spelling

1. There is international aenetermg
2. the ontrciteop of 18 threatened species
3. aermni creatures
4. Sharks are lbnuearevl wildlife
5. muenommt is clearly building
6. be around for future ngnarsoetei
7. alseidsbeht in 1973
8. killed each year by olmicceram fishing
9. seitedatm at 100 million
10. One nooncvitrase group
11. Forty countries aresigded
12. there was not enough cniedeve to show that

Role Play

Role A – Eating Animals

You think eating animals is the worst thing to do to animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these (and why): keeping animals as pets, cloning or using animal fur.

Role B – Keeping Animals As Pets

You think keeping animals as pets is the worst thing to do to animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these (and why): eating animals, cloning or using animal fur.

Role C – Cloning

You think cloning is the worst thing to do to animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these (and why): keeping animals as pets, eating animals or using animal fur.

Role D – Using Animal Fur

You think using animal fur is the worst thing to do to animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these (and why): keeping animals as pets, cloning or eating animals.

Speaking – Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the things we have to stop at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings

- Fishing
- Hunting
- Cloning
- Farming
- Eating animals
- Keeping animals as pets
- Using animal fur
- Experimenting on animals

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. h
6. c	7. j	8. b	9. d	10. f

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d T	e F	f T	g F	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.