

Letter

Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
DG MARE
Rue de la Loi / Wetsstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius:

As a concerned diver and Project AWARE supporter, I urge you to act in the best interests of our vulnerable ocean ecosystem and valuable dive tourism industry by protecting our most imperiled shark populations. I am deeply concerned that the E.U. has been opposing urgent actions advised by scientists to prevent the collapse of endangered North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks.

Dive tourism in the EU is a multi-billion euro industry with significant interest in ensuring the long-term health of the marine ecosystem. As we adapt to save our industry and look forward to robust reopening, we are keenly aware that improving ocean health and preventing further depletion of key predators is paramount to our success. Obstructing international action on mako sharks not only harms the population, but risks cascading negative effects on the ecosystem and the responsible, sustainable businesses that depend on it.

It saddens me to see the EU slide from its leadership role as a science-based, global champion of shark conservation. Please reconsider your stance and act immediately to ban mako retention in U.S. East coast fisheries and promote the same remedy at international negotiations for the North Atlantic.

Thank you.

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