



# PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION

May 15, 2009

Dear U.S. Senator,

We urge you to vote "YES" on S. 850, The Shark Conservation Act of 2009.

Our mission at Pacific Whale Foundation is to promote appreciation, understanding and protection of whales, dolphins, coral reefs and our planet's oceans. We accomplish this by educating the public – from a scientific perspective – about the marine environment. We support and conduct responsible marine research and address marine conservation issues in Hawaii and the Pacific. Through educational ecotours, we model and promote sound ecotourism practices and responsible wildlife watching.

Enclosed are scanned copies of petitions supporting the goals of S. 850, with a total of 4,288 signatures from members of the United States public.

By closing loopholes in the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000, this bill will help put an end to the wasteful practice of "finning" and ensure the US is a leader in shark conservation.

Sharks are a unique and vitally important resource we cannot afford to squander. Please support the United States as a leader in the global campaign to protect sharks from finning and overfishing.

We urge the Senate to pass this important bill and thereby ensure that the U.S. finning ban is the world's best providing a strong model for other countries.

Sincerely,

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Director of Conservation

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