

# SHARKS ARE FRIENDS NOT FOES

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## ABSTRACT

Our project focuses on conserving the shark populations in Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Sea Savers have decided to utilize shark conservation to combat the unbalance between fish, seal, and shark populations. We have set up a GoFundMe and have conducted other fundraising events. The money raised will be donated to an organization that supports shark research.



# PROBLEM: PRESERVING MARINE BIODIVERSITY

What: Decreasing fish populations (cod: 17% decrease per year) and threatened shark population (quarter of

all shark populations are threatened)
Where: Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Why: We do not want fish and shark species to go

locally extinct

# WHY SHARKS?

- Sharks are globally threatened
- Approximately 100 million sharks are killed annually
- Shark finning is the main cause of population loss
- Sharks are keystone species in marine ecosystems

### Pros

- •Sharks become less threatened
- Fish population potentially increases
- Manages seal population
- •Healthier ecosystem
- Increase in tourism

Do you think that sharks target humans when in the water?

Would you donate money for shark conservation research?

These charts show the results of a survey

taken by our classmates. These results

represent the opinions of white sharks and

shark conservation of semi-educated

students of our GPS: Extinctions class.

Research

Are you afraid of sharks?

### Cons

- Limited support from public
- More sharks may increase fear for beachgoers
- Increase in shark encounters
- Expensive
- Decrease in tourism

# Sharks threaten recreational fahing opportunities What percentage of your fahing effort is focused that the standard of the standard opportunities for the standard opportunities What percentage of your fahing effort is focused that the standard opportunities for the standard opportunities fahing opportunities fahing opportunities Sharks threaten recreational fahing opportunities Sharks threaten recreational

These charts show the results of a survey taken by J. Marcus Drymon and Steven B. Scyphers. These results show the willingness of anglers to donate to shark conservation.

# SOLUTION

To increase the shark population, we have decided to support a shark conservancy group, the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC). The AWSC funds for white shark research to purchase tags, help in public safety initiatives, and educate the public. The AWSC is currently supporting research by Dr. Greg Skomal who is focusing on estimating the great white shark population in Cape Cod.



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Support Shark Conservation





Seal Population Decreases Local Fish
Species are
less
threatened

ess are Population Rebounds