

Stop the trading of shark products

The Ocean Realm Society will lead an email campaign opposing the business practice of the online trader Alibaba.com to allow the posting of shark parts wanted for purchase.



The company web site states that "Alibaba.com Corporation is China's leading e-commerce company, operating the world's largest online marketplaces for both international and domestic China trade, as well as China's most popular online payment system, AliPay." Alibaba.com also owns and operates Yahoo! China, which it acquired in October of 2005.

According to founder Richard H. Stewart, the *Ocean Realm Society* will enthusiastically support an email write-in campaign initiated by noted underwater photographer Wolfgang Leander, who currently resides in Bolivia. Leander's 'shark-finning' story is featured in the current edition of the *Ocean Realm Journal*, the society's publication for which he serves as a contributing editor.

"We are asking our members," said Stewart, "as well as those of other environmentally-oriented organizations, to express their outrage. This irresponsible action by Alibaba.com provides shark traders a method to buy and sell shark body parts."

A recent search on the Alibaba website turned up 71 postings by 335 companies listing 169 shark-related products. This type of business platform serves only to fuel the senseless slaughter of sharks, said Leander, further decimating a population that, by some accounts, is being reduced at the rate of one hundred million sharks per year.

"Eliminating demand is the only effective method for disrupting the supply line," said Stewart. "This effort to convince Alibaba.com that it's website contributes to a global problem, could have a positive effect."

To see the scope of global shark buying visit
<http://importer.alibaba.com/buyerooffers/Shark.html>.

To see Alibaba.com management visit
<http://www.alibaba.com/aboutalibaba/management.html>.

To locate the Alibaba.com office nearest you visit
<http://www.alibaba.com/aboutalibaba/contact.html>.

To voice your concerns about Alibaba.com shark trade postings visit
http://www.alibaba.com/trade/servlet/page/static/help/contact_us_answer.



Collection of different body parts of sharks, including fins and tongues. Chinese Medicine in a Chinese pharmacy in Yokohama, Japan. Source: Wikipedia

20 October 2006: Richard Stewart Ocean Realm Society wrote:

Greetings all.

This morning I had a 6 am call from Porter Erisman of Alibab.com in China. It was a very fruitful conversation and as his email below stated, they are going to look into removing this page from the Alibab.com web site.

We must keep on the pressure as well as look at other potential online traders that may be lurking in cyber space. In most cases these online organizations are not even aware of the postings - much less the categories. I have asked that Alibab.com monitor this, just as they would if it were child slaves or the like, which is filtered and removed. I am happy to see they are taking our call to action seriously.

Richard

20 October. 2006: Porter Erisman Alibaba.com wrote:

Dear Richard,

It was a pleasure to speak to you and I am glad we had to the chance to better understand your views and the views of the Ocean Realm Society. We certainly welcome your suggestions and opinions.

As you know, Alibaba.com is the world's largest marketplace for global trade with members from more than 200 countries and territories. We serve as an important platform for entrepreneurs to post company profiles and market their products to buyers around the world. We were founded in China and have grown to become a truly global community, with our products and services developed based on the suggestions of our members worldwide.

We appreciate the suggestion from the Ocean Realm Society to remove member postings of shark products from the Alibaba.com site. As I promised, we will review our policies on this matter and engage in dialogue on this issue with environmental groups, our employees, and the entrepreneurs who use Alibaba.com.

With members in 200 countries and territories, Alibaba.com always strives to balance the different perspectives of our members, taking into account the many cultural considerations. We appreciate your suggestion and will take a sincere look at the issues raised by the Ocean Realm Society.

Sincerely,

*Porter Erisman
Vice-President
Alibaba.com*

<http://www.sharkproject.org/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=25116#25116>

SharkProject (Germany) collected sample ads of shark projects offered on Alibaba.com

We supply high quality dried shark bones
Back bones, head bones, cartilage
No chemical process, sun dried, very clean
For detail specification, please contact us
Indochito international

We offer Dried Shark Fin. Please request added information.
GOOD VIEW SEAFOOD INTERNATIONAL SA DE CV

Fresh Blue Shark Fins We are the exclusive representation office for European suppliers of shark fins and other sea-food
AMANO

Shark Fins
We can sell shipments from 500kgms-1500kgms including big fins and smallfins, fishmaws, treasher ...
Samsa Business
El Salvador

100% Sun Dried Shark Fin
Supplying dry shark fin Quality - best export quality, sundried, grade a, size a, 100% unsalted...
Sea Tuna Trade Private Limited

Shark Fin, Shark Meat, Fish Maw
We are the international marine product (seafood) distribution. We carry ; shark fin, shark meat.
The Shark Product Corporation
United States

And Wolfgang Leander, <http://www.oceanicdreams.com/>, also found this posting from the United States on Alibaba.com:

Buy Baby Shark
We are looking for a bulk supplier of preserved baby shark (Carcharhinus leucas) or similar species.