

CUT & RUN

Exposing Senegal as a gateway for the global shark fin trade

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- (1) Background and methodology**
- (2) Key findings**
- (3) Recommendations**



1. Background and methodology

Background

- Dakar: a major landing point for tuna
- Yellow-carded in 2024

Methodology

- ICCAT authorised tuna longliner list, cross-checked against AIS to identify Dakar port calls
- Just 9 non-Chinese or Taiwanese vessels used Dakar (2021-2025)
- Cross-checked against 124 fisher interviews



Shark fins stacked on the deck of a fishing vessel. Photo shared by a fisher from his time on board a Taiwanese-owned vessel (2021-2022)

Vessels of interest

Country	Total number of 'active' ICCAT longliners	Number of 'active' ICCAT longliners that visited Dakar (2020-2025)	Number of 'active' ICCAT longliners visiting Dakar and alleged to engage in shark finning	% of Dakar-visiting longliners also alleged to have engaged in shark finning ⁸¹
China	49	40	28	70%
Taiwan	81	31	13	42%



2. Key findings (1/2)

A. Scale and methods

- Large scale & routine
- Substantial
- Presumed to be for onward sale at landing
- Often captured as bycatch, but fishers also reported deliberate targeting

B. Species

- Species that ICCAT entirely prohibits vessels from retaining :
- Endangered species : including hammerhead and oceanic whitetip



Fisher holding a hammerhead shark on board a fishing vessel. Photo shared by a fisher interviewed by EJF, reportedly taken during his time on board a Chinese-owned vessel.

2.Key Findings (2/2)

C. Evasion, Concealment and Monitoring Failures

- Deliberate tactics of concealment
- Unloaded at night to avoid detection
- Port authorities failed to monitor unloading activities

D. High-Risk Tuna and Swordfish Entering Global Supply Chains

- Exported from Dakar directly to Japan, and to processors in Singapore and Thailand then exported to Italy, South Korea, and the USA



Video shows a fisher cutting off the fins of a suspected shortfin mako shark and throwing its body overboard..Video shared by a fisher from his time on board a Taiwanese-owned vessel (2022-2024)

3. Recommendations

- **Senegal, China and Taiwan**
- **ICCAT**
 - Urgently adopt and implement a “fins naturally attached” policy without exceptions.
 - Set time bound targets to achieve 100% observer coverage via REM and/or human observers
 - Establish an HSBI scheme, supported by capacity building for inspectors.



Thank you!

Questions?



Full Movie :



<https://vimeo.com/1198813419/f931226a43>

Full Report :



<https://ejfoundation.org/reports>

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