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BC University research indicates that Hong Kong's import shark fin accounts for 50% of the world's total 粵語

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A report from investigators at BC University and the University of Hong Kong has reported that in recent years, wealthy consumers have increased demand for shark fins, resulting in a significant decline in the number of sharks worldwide.

Daniel Pauly, chief investigator of the University of Ocean and Fisheries at BC University, said that about 1.4 million tons of sharks were killed each year, more than doubled sixty years ago. Overfishing sharks caused 60% of the world's shark species to be threatened. The number is the highest among vertebrates. Pauly pointed out that most of the shark catchings occurred in countries where the fishing industry lacks regulation and economic development is backward. For example, Indonesia kills more than 100,000 tons of sharks every year.

Pauly also pointed out that Hong Kong's annual import of shark fins accounts for half of the world's total, and the imported

shark fins will be re-exported to mainland China. He believes that Hong Kong has relatively few restrictions on trade. It is easier to do import and export business. In addition, many smuggling activities are the main reason why Hong Kong has become the world's largest port of shark fin.

Pauly said that shark fins have long been a part of Chinese banquets, festivals, and even social diet cultures, and prices are high because of the scarcity of ingredients. However, in recent years, young people in Hong Kong and mainland China have begun to have an awareness of ecological protection, and the demand for shark fin has declined, while the demand for shark fin products in Vietnam and Macau is increasing.

Pauly said that the number of reasonable shark fin products should be controlled at 4,300 tons per year, but the current number has reached 25,000 tons. He believes that it is unrealistic to wait for international organizations and governments to regulate killings. Calling everyone to stop eating shark fins is the best way to save sharks and protect the ecology.
Cantonese: Yan Jianrong Report

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