

**H**AMMERHEADS SWIM IN THE PACIFIC near the Galapagos Islands, where poachers kill sharks in a marine reserve, hacking off their fins for a soup considered a delicacy in Chinese cultures. The fish are then thrown back in the water to suffer a slow, painful death. In 2013, HSUS and Humane Society International campaigns helped shrink the market for a product that causes the deaths of up to 73 million sharks a year and is driving several of these keystone species toward extinction. New York—the second-largest U.S. market behind California—banned the possession, sale and distribution of fins, and we led efforts resulting in similar bans in Delaware and Maryland. Overseas, India and the European Union approved a requirement that fishermen land sharks with their fins attached.

Also with HSI encouragement, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species approved protections for several types of sharks and manta rays, marking the first time in the organization's 40-year history that marine species with high commercial value have come under the treaty's safeguards. The action came as CITES also agreed to new protections for more than 40 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.

Iris Ho, HSI wildlife program manager, says the days when people thought nothing of ordering expensive shark fin soup for special occasions are over. In 2013, Hong Kong announced it would no longer serve the soup at official functions, following an earlier decree by China. "It's a momentum that keeps building. We are making huge strides."

## WATCHING OVER THE OCEANS

