

# GILES CHICHESTER MEP

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **EU Council of Ministers adopt a Conservation Action Plan to Protect the Shark**

Conservative MEPs have been leading a campaign for the adoption of the long awaited Shark Action Plan. The plan will enforce the protection and management of the shark population, both in EU and international waters. It will also provide a framework for further scientific research and understanding of sharks and their vital place in the ecosystem.

Conservatives successfully led a campaign to prohibit the widespread practise of "finning" in 2006 and continued to fight for the protection of these endangered species. The Action Plan commits to banning fishing of four of the critically endangered species of sharks and rays. However there are a number of species native to UK waters that are still left in a vulnerable position.

#### **MEP Chichester said**

**"The Shark Action Plan is extremely important for managing the oceans' shark population. Its adoption by the Council of Ministers is an important step towards protecting a species that is increasingly at risk and without which the eco-systems of our oceans would collapse.**

**"This plan is an important start but we need to strengthen it and to invest in improving our knowledge of shark species.**

**"We need a shark action plan with sharper teeth if we are to prevent the loss of some of the most important animals in our oceans."**

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*Conservatives in the European Parliament*