

# Shark's Fin Soup: To Ban Or Not To Ban?



Will banning shark's fin soup  
from restaurant menus  
really save shark populations  
from extinction?

**NO,**

says one man, a vet, an animal lover, and member of a UN body on endangered species.

Join us for an ISEAS seminar

**"Shark's Fin Soup Helps the Poor:  
Is the Fin Industry all that Bad?"**

Thursday, 16 February 2012

9:30am - 12:30pm

ISEAS Seminar Room II

## SPEAKER

### Dr Choo-Hoo Giam

Committee Member, CITES (UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

## DISCUSSANTS

### Mr Louis Ng

Executive Director  
ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society)

### Mr Hank Jenkins

President, Species Management Specialists

### Professor Steve Oakley

Chairman, Shark Savers Malaysia

## PROGRAMME

9:30am to 10:15am

"Sharks Fin Soup Helps the Poor: Is the Fin Industry all that Bad?"  
by Dr Choo-Hoo Giam

10:15am - 10:30am

Tea Break

10:30am - 12noon

Discussants: Mr Louis Ng  
Mr Hank Jenkins  
Prof Steve Oakley

12noon

Q & A

To register, email [may@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:may@iseas.edu.sg)

## SPEAKER



### Dr Choo-Hoo Giam

Committee Member, CITES (UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Dr Choo-Hoo Giam is a CITES Animals Committee Member (UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). He was elected to the committee in 1994, and has since been re-elected to represent the 32 countries in Asia. Dr Giam led the Singapore delegation to the CITES biennial meetings from 1986 until his retirement from government in 1995. He has been closely associated with ASEAN on CITES issues, and was an Advisor to the Royal Cambodian delegation at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Bangkok in 2004. Dr Giam is a member of the IUCN-Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee.

Dr Giam was the Chief Veterinary Officer of Singapore, and the Deputy Director of Primary Production, Singapore. He is a Past-President of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons Malaysia/ Singapore, the Singapore Veterinary Association, a CVA Regional Representative (Commonwealth Veterinary Association), and a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England.

## DISCUSSANTS



### Mr Louis Ng

Executive Director, ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society)

Louis is the Founder and Executive Director of ACRES, a Singapore based charity with a vision of a world where animals are treated with compassion and respect. ACRES is also registered as an International NGO in Lao PDR and in Australia. ACRES has six focus areas: Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Wildlife Crime Investigation, Addressing Zoo Animal Welfare, Humane Education, Community Outreach and Promoting Cruelty-Free Living.

Louis received his Bachelor of Science in biology from the National University of Singapore and his Masters of Science in Primate Conservation from the Oxford Brookes University. In 2011, Louis received the inaugural Yahoo! Singapore 9 award which recognises nine Singaporeans who really made a difference in the past year. In 2007, Louis was presented with The Outstanding Young Persons of Singapore award. In 2002, Louis received the HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited)/NYAA (National Youth Achievement Award) Youth Environmental Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of environmental protection and nature conservation in Singapore.



### Mr Hank Jenkins

President, Species Management Specialists

In 1974, after completing his studies at the Australian National University, Australia, Hank Jenkins joined the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. As a consequence of his research on saltwater crocodiles in northern Australia, Hank played a pivotal role in formulating and implementing the concept of 'conservation through sustainable use' and crocodile ranching as a conservation tool.

Hank was elected to represent the Oceania Region on the CITES Animals Committee in 1989. In 1992, he was elected to Chair the Committee and served in this capacity for three terms until stepping down in 2000. In 2000 Hank left government service and established a private consulting to advise on CITES implementation and formulating administrative and management systems for using wild animals sustainably.

In 2007, he was awarded an Order of Australia for his contributions to wildlife conservation and management as well as sustainable international trade in wildlife.



### Professor Steve Oakley

Chairman, Shark Savers Malaysia

Steve Oakley has worked on marine biodiversity and conservation in SE Asia for the past 16 years. He came to Borneo to work at University Malaysia Sarawak at the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation. Through surveys and lobbying he has helped raise awareness of many coastal issues especially the destruction caused by blast and cyanide fishing. He founded the Green Connection Aquarium in Kota Kinabalu as a way to promote environmental education to large numbers of Sabahan parents and children.

Oakley is the founder of Tropical Research and Conservation Centre (TRACC) a non profit organisation that uses volunteers to rebuild coral reefs, protect turtles and develop a shark sanctuary. The surveys that have been done by TRACC were instrumental in raising the awareness for the need to protect sharks in Malaysia. Facts such as "2050 hours underwater in a national park and no sharks seen and a fall in shark numbers of 98% in 16 years" have helped persuade the Sabah State Cabinet that sharks should be protected. By combining economic value for tourism with real information on shark population declines, Steve Oakley is leading the drive to change the law to protect sharks. This has been successful: the Minister for Tourism and Environment has announced the new law will come into effect early in 2012. Steve Oakley is coordinator for the Global Shark Survey and Chairman of Shark Savers Malaysia.