

Dolphin hunt and fisheries in Peru

Pre-1950

The Peruvian waters are nutrient-rich and home to an extraordinary biodiversity. However, industrial fishery is threatening this biological abundance for decades already.

After 1950

By the middle of the last century, commercial anchovy fishery starts in Peru. It is the largest industrial exploitation of a fish species worldwide.

Up to present

Local fishermen resort to hunt dolphins and sharks. While a ban on hunting dolphins was adopted in 1996, the hunt continues illegally. Millions of anchovies, sharks and other fish species, as well as thousands of dolphins are killed in Peru every year.

Tomorrow

Ecosystem health is compromised. Without counteractive measures, many marine species will have no future in Peruvian waters. And this affects humans, too.



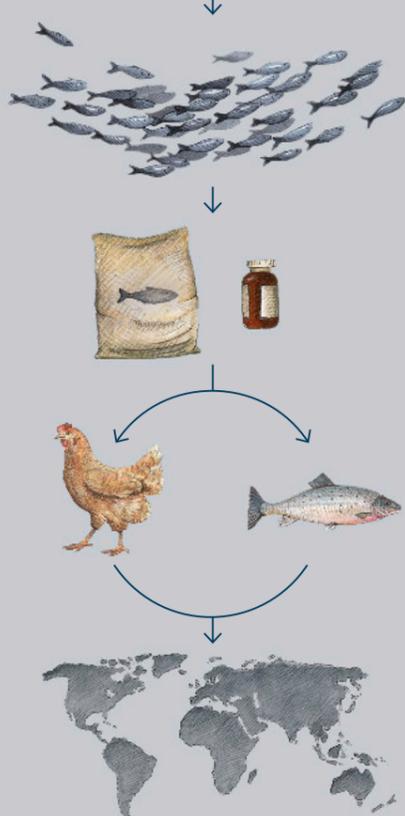
Industrial anchovy fishery in Peru

Peru accounts for 10% of global fish catches, with primarily foreign companies emptying the seas. Notably anchovy populations are being exploited on an industrial scale.

Factories in Peruvian coastal cities process millions of tons of anchovies every year into fish meal and fish oil for export.

98% of anchovy catches are not for consumption by local people, but end up as animal feed in foreign livestock and aquaculture industries, particularly in China and Germany.

This practice is both ecologically and socially problematic. Consumers in Europe and other parts of the world share responsibility for this situation.



Dolphins as shark bait

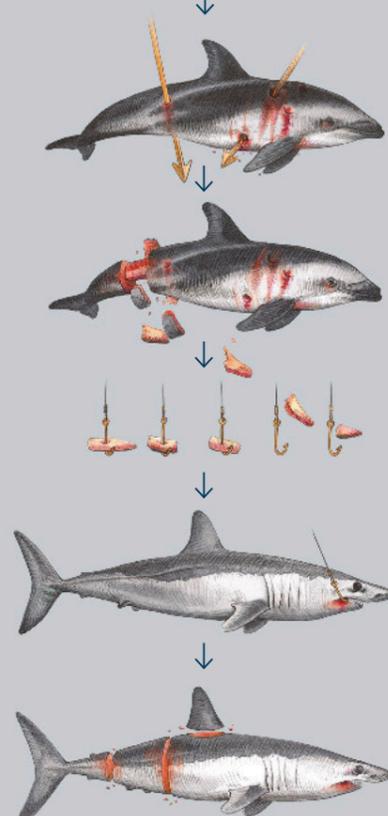
About 15,000 dolphins are killed by the Peruvian shark fishing fleet every year. This is the largest illegal dolphin hunt worldwide.

Dolphins are being harpooned from close range, bled out, beaten to death, and dismembered on board.

Dolphin meat is being used as shark bait. However, a large part is also sold on illegal markets for human consumption.

About 1.2 million sharks per year are caught by longline fisheries and brutally killed (mainly shortfin mako shark and blue shark). Four out of five sharks that are caught are immature and thus lost for species reproduction.

The sharks' meat is mainly sold on the local market. As a lucrative by-product, shark fins are being exported to Asia.



Necessary Actions

LOCALLY (Peru):

- Enforce and control the existing **dolphin hunting laws** and the **ban on landing and loading shark fins**
- Define and enforce **minimum body sizes, catch quotas** and **close seasons** for sharks

- Use **anchovies sustainably** (observe catch quotas; provide sufficient anchovies for local food supply; end marine pollution by fish processing plants)
- **Educate local fishermen** about ecological interdependencies, sustainable fishery practices and alternative source of income (e.g., ecotourism)

INTERNATIONALLY:

- Implement the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to **Prevent, Deter and Eliminate** Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing ("pirate fishing") globally
- Those who do not rely on fish as a food source: **Reduce consumption of marine fish**
- Avoid **dietary supplements** based on fish products