



SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Madam Chair,

Can the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council ban shark feeding in federal waters? If for some reason they can't could they make a recommendation on stopping this practice that many fishermen feel will end up with someone being attacked and killed by a hungry shark that mistakes a leg for a mackerel.

There is a bill in Congress, S.3099, that bans shark feed in federal waters but there isn't much movement going on because of the controversy concerning Biscayne Bay.

We notice there is also great concern on the part of some diver groups and that the FWC banned shark feeding in state waters many years ago. I noticed in the Key West newspaper kwadlow@keynoter.com, that John Russell, founder of the Florida Association of Diving Instructors, strongly endorses the feeding ban. ***“The truth is that feeding or baiting sharks is inauthentic, unsustainable and just not good conservation,”*** Russell said.

While thinking about shark feeding, is there any data showing how many oceanic sharks are killed by sport divers in the South Atlantic?

Look forward to seeing you.

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