

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to sharks; creating s. 379.2426, F.S.;
 3 providing definitions; prohibiting certain possession
 4 or landing of shark fins unless authorized by rule of
 5 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;
 6 providing penalties; providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Section 379.2426, Florida Statutes, is created
 11 to read:

12 379.2426 Possession or landing of separated shark fins
 13 prohibited; penalties.-

14 (1) As used in this section, the term:

15 (a) "Conviction" means any disposition other than
 16 acquittal or dismissal.

17 (b) "Separated", with respect to a shark fin, means not
 18 naturally attached to the corresponding shark body through some
 19 portion of uncut skin.

20 (c) "Shark fin" means any of the fins of a shark,
 21 including the tail, or a portion thereof.

22 (2) A person may not possess in or on the waters of this
 23 state a separated shark fin or land a separated shark fin in
 24 this state, unless such possession or landing is authorized by
 25 commission rule.

26 (3) (a) Upon conviction of a violation of this section, a
27 person is subject to the following penalties:

28 1. For a first violation, a misdemeanor of the second
29 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. In
30 addition, the commission shall assess an administrative fine of
31 \$4,500 and suspend all of the violator's license privileges
32 under this chapter for 6 months.

33 2. For a second violation, a misdemeanor of the second
34 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. In
35 addition, the commission shall assess an administrative fine of
36 \$9,500 and suspend all of the violator's license privileges
37 under this chapter for 12 months.

38 3. For a third and any subsequent violation, a misdemeanor
39 of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
40 775.083. In addition, the commission shall assess an
41 administrative fine of \$9,500 and permanently revoke all of the
42 violator's license privileges under this chapter.

43 (b) During the period of suspension or revocation of
44 license privileges imposed under paragraph (a), the violator may
45 not participate in the taking or harvesting, or attempt the
46 taking or harvesting, of saltwater products from any vessel
47 within the waters of the state; be aboard any vessel on which a
48 commercial quantity of saltwater products is possessed through
49 an activity requiring a license pursuant to this chapter; or
50 engage in any other activity requiring a license, permit, or

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51 | certificate issued pursuant to this chapter.

52 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.