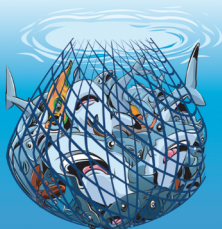


**Eco-Sys Action
presents**

**Reefy
the little shark
of
the oceans**

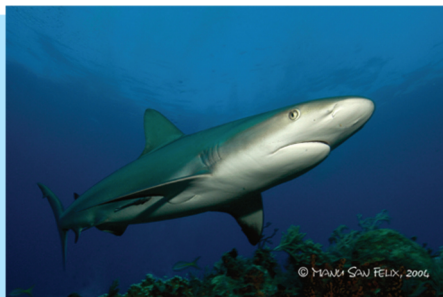


"Little Heroes of the World" collection

<https://littlemuseumoftheworld.com/boopy-e/>

Zigzagging around the buildings, Boopy, our little sparrow, takes in the breathtaking view of Hong Kong harbor as well as the surrounding islands. What a sight! With 7 million inhabitants, Hong Kong is not only a concrete jungle after all, and half of this region of China is a natural park.

Down in the busy streets, Boopy uses his best Cantonese to say thank you (“m’goi”) and hello (“lei ho”). Hong Kong is a city bursting with energy, full of restaurants and shopping malls always buzzing with people.



The South China Sea surrounds Hong Kong, but this is not where Boopy found any sharks. The sharks are unfortunately found in small aquaria, on menus in restaurants, and in shops that sell dried food. Hong Kong is the crossroads of the shark fin trade and a lot of the hundreds of millions of sharks killed every year end up here.

At this rate, some shark species will be extinct soon, and with an even greater demand for shark-based dishes, we should be worried about their future.

But the kids are our only hope and Boopy trusts they'll be able to help!

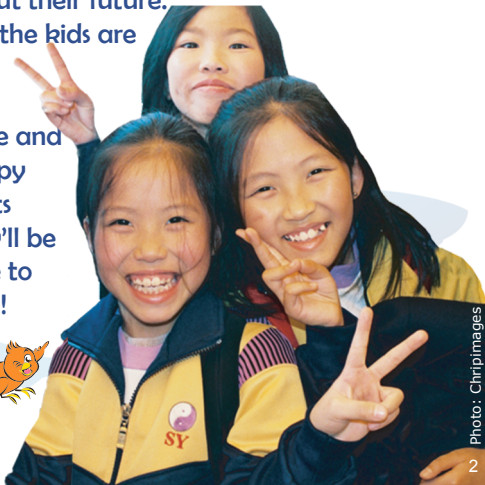


Photo: Chripimages



Mei Shan (which means "beautiful coral" in Chinese) and Hoy Long ("sea dragon") live in Hong Kong, in South China. Like so many kids their age, they love sports. Mei Shan is a keen table tennis player while Hoy Long is crazy for basketball. They often spend their evening playing video games.



During weekends, they enjoy spending their time in the mountain country parks around the city, away from the pollution. Hoy Long is a fairly good hiker and Mei Shan can swim nearly all year round because of the sub-tropical climate and mild winters.

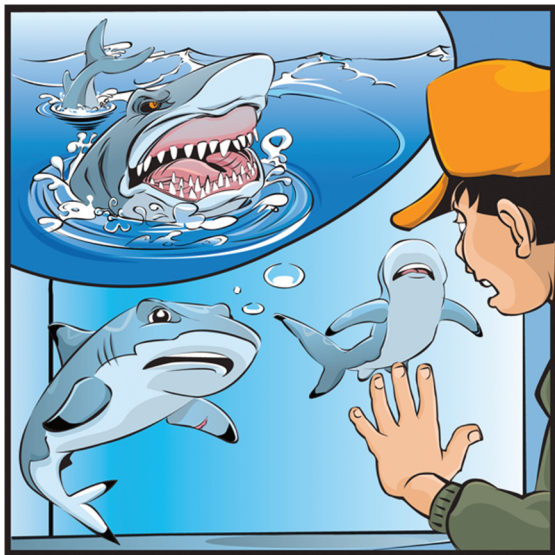


Hong Kong streets are busy seven days a week. There are lots of impressive skyscrapers and numerous artistic Chinese signs. Our friends were shopping one day when Boopy the little sparrow came to them with terrible news of injustice. "Come with me, friends! You have to see those poor little sharks swimming like prisoners in a tiny water tub."

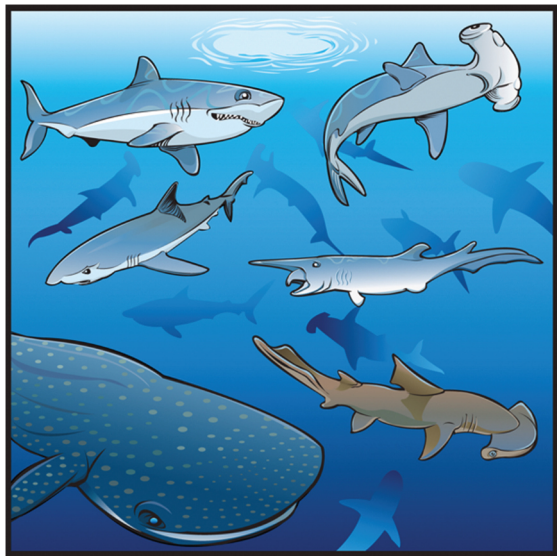


Mei Shan and Hoy Long rushed to the shopping mall where an aquarium shop owner got the bad idea of putting baby sharks on sale.

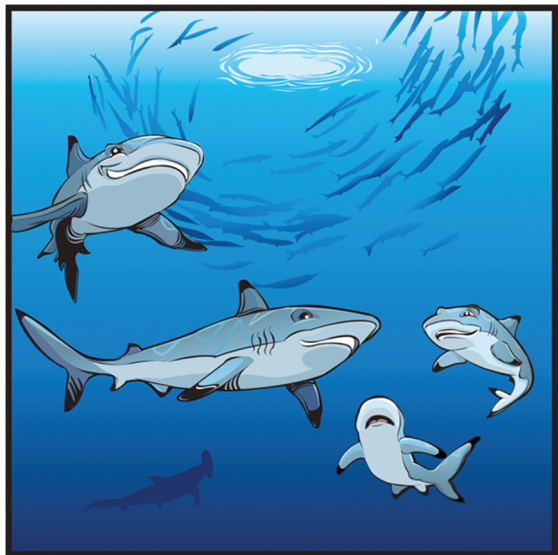
"It's here," said Boopy, pointing to the tank.



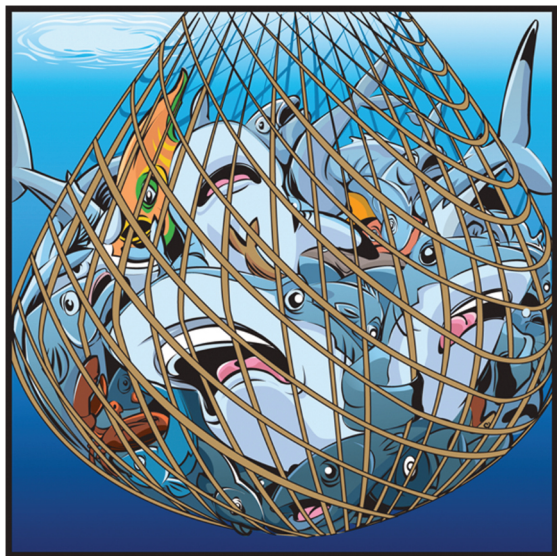
"My name is Reefy," the little shark told the amazed youngsters. "You know, people usually don't like us because of stupid movies they've watched where we looked like monsters and maneaters. But really, very few sharks would attack humans. If that happened, it's usually because sharks sometimes confuse humans with seals, which we eat. I think people should know that every year, there are more people being attacked by dogs than by sharks."



"But the shark world is wonderful. It's a really fantastic place! There are different kinds of sharks and we all look different: there are saw sharks, hammerheads, and whale sharks, which are the biggest sharks," Reefy told them.



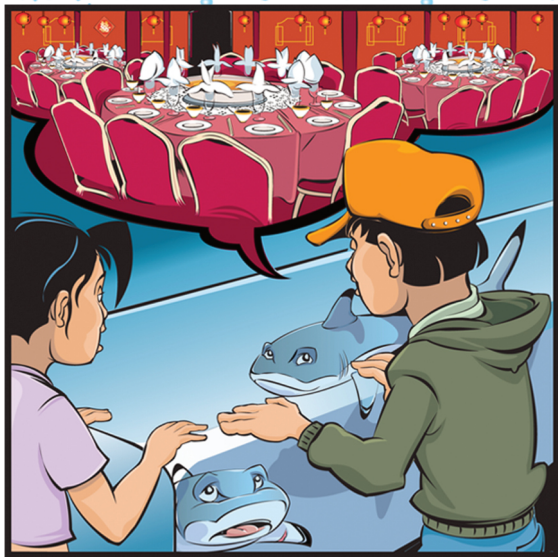
"We sharks are now being chased in every corner of the world, from the Galapagos to South Africa, and now that our numbers are dangerously declining, our future is very uncertain. The day we were caught, we were peacefully swimming in the turquoise waters of the Philippines. Sharks aren't too family-bound, but that day, our parents were swimming right next to us."



"Suddenly a net took us by surprise. It was impossible to escape and fish and sharks alike were pulled to the surface. It was terrible!"



"Fishermen separated us from the others probably because we were young and are valuable for the tropical aquarium fish trade. We saw our parents and friends being finned. The fishermen shamelessly cut off their fins and put them back into the water to die." Reefy couldn't help crying. "Can you imagine? About a hundred million of us are killed every year for consumption in countries like China, Hong Kong, and Singapore."



"Do you know why? It's because wealthy Chinese people tend to order expensive dishes for important dinners, just to show off their status. You need to kill almost 40 sharks for a big wedding banquet!"

After hearing this news, Hoy Long breathed deeply and said, "Reefy, next Saturday, we're attending Auntie Miu Yin's wedding party. I promise you we'll tell our family about your plight!"



Staying true to his word, the following Saturday, Hoy Long spoke in behalf of Reefy and told his family how those poor sharks had been caught and killed, just for tasteless soup.

"It would be easy to skip this kind of dish! Restaurants can think of other lucrative and better-tasting dishes to serve. Saving the sharks is so important in maintaining the fragile balance of our oceans!" All the family members were carefully listening.



It was enough to touch their hearts. How could they contribute to the disappearance of an entire species, just for the sake of fun and a "prestigious" dish? They all decided to reject the shark's fin soup to support Reefy.

"Congratulations, kids," said Uncle Chan. "We're all very proud of you! It really is important to protect the sea. Every kid has a role to play and the most important one is to teach ignorant adults like us! We need to make more effort in keeping the seas alive."

Kids have the power to save sharks, especially in Asia. Reefy will definitely feel proud and hopeful knowing so many people want to help!

By spreading information about the shark fin problem and pushing governments to act, a foundation like Longitude 181 Nature has done a great job for shark conservation in the Pacific Ocean, in the Red Sea, and the West Indies. With courage and determination, they prove that one can reach this goal.

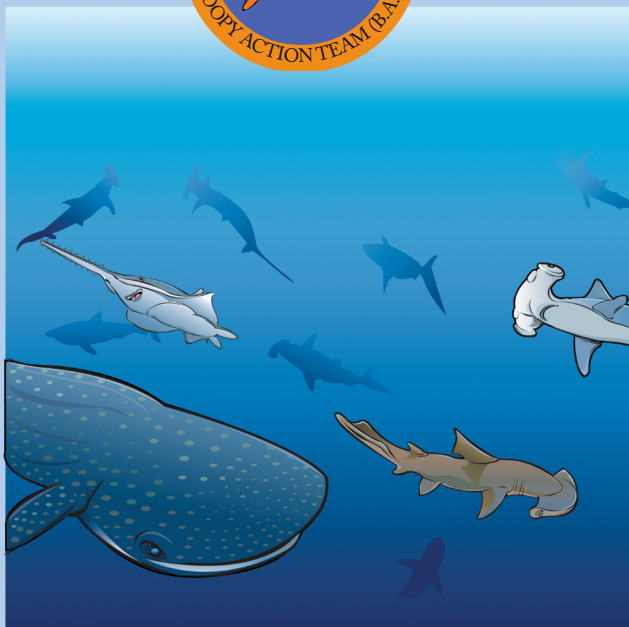
To find out more on how you can save Reefy, you can visit Longitude 181 Nature at www.ecosysfun.com



Photo: Chripimages



MANU SAN FELIX, 2004



Boopy Edition

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