

Science, Service, Stewardship



Federal Shark Feeding Statute

National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office

Science, Service, and Stewardship

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NOAA's Mission

To understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs



Key NOAA Services in the Pacific

- National Weather Service
- Oceanic & Atmospheric Research
- Marine and Aviation Operations
- National Ocean Service
- National Environmental Satellite Data & Information Service
- **National Marine Fisheries Service**
 - Pacific Islands Regional Office
 - Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
 - Pacific Islands Law Enforcement



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

(Public Law 94-265, as amended)

Section 317. SHARK FEEDING

“Except to the extent determined by the Secretary [of Commerce], or under State law, as presenting no public health hazard or safety risk, or when conducted as part of a research program funded in whole or in part by appropriated funds, ***it is unlawful to introduce, or attempt to introduce, food or any other substance into the water to attract sharks for any purpose other than to harvest sharks*** within the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State of Hawaii and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean Area.”



Essential elements of a potential violation of federal statute:

- 1) Activity must occur in federal waters (from 3–200 nautical miles offshore)
- 2) Food or other substance must be introduced into the water to attract sharks



Exceptions:

- 1) Fishing to harvest sharks
- 2) Conducting federal or cooperative research



Contact:

NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office

www.fpir.noaa.gov

808-944-2200

NOAA's Office for Law Enforcement, Pacific Islands

Report Violations (Anonymous Hotline): 1-800-853-1964

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/pi_pacificislands

(808) 203-2500