

EBAY FACILITATES THE TRADE OF ENDANGERED SHARK SPECIES

SHARK STEWARDS

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Ebay is openly allowing the trade of protected/ endangered shark and elasmobranch parts. Many of the species listed on ebay are protected under the Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Even with the requirement of CITES permits, there is a lack of transparent provenance and proper permitting per Appendix II. Appendix II regulates the trade of threatened and endangered flora/fauna and their parts, requiring intensive permitting to trade.

There is no process to verify provenance and proper CITES permitting from ebay vendors.

TELL EBAY



Stop Endangered Shark Trade

We compiled data of all CITES protected species parts listed on ebay. Data collection began on April 1st, 2021 and ended on April 20th, 2021. In total there were 131 CITES protected species parts listed on ebay. Shark Stewards calls on ebay to strengthen and enforce their wildlife policy.



What is CITES?

CITES is an international agreement between various governments which aims to ensure that the international trade of species does not threaten the survival of species. CITES is broken down into Appendix I, II, & III. Appendix I includes species on the brink of extinction (trade of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances). Appendix II includes species in which trade must be controlled in order to ensure their survival. Appendix III includes species that are protected in at least one country (this country has asked for assistance in controlling trade).



CITES Protected Species

- Basking shark - *Cetorhinus maximus*
- Whale shark - *Rhincodon typus*
- Great white shark - *Carcharodon carcharias*
- Sawfishes (7 species) - *Pristidae spp.*
- Porbeagle Shark - *Lamna nasus*
- Mako sharks - *Lamnidae spp.*
- Oceanic whitetip shark - *Carcharinus longimanus*
- Scalloped hammerhead - *Sphyrna lewini*
- Great hammerhead shark - *Sphyrna mokarran*
- Smooth hammerhead shark - *Sphyrna zygaena*
- Manta rays - *Manta spp.*
- Devil rays - *Mobula spp.*
- Thresher sharks - *Alopias spp.*
- Silky shark - *Carcharhinus falciformis*



Listed as US \$499.99



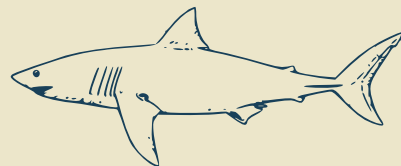
The item listed to the left is the tail of a Bigeye thresher shark; the listing also comes with the shark jaw and vertebrae.

EBAY LISTINGS

Many of the ebay listings are also contradictory in that the item origin differs from the item location. For example, some items are sold from South Carolina, yet they originated from the Philippines.



Listed as US \$38,976.00



This high volume seller used to sell sawfish rostrums on ebay, but recently took them down. They are now only listed on this website:

https://tellmewhereonearth.com/Sawfish_Bills.htm

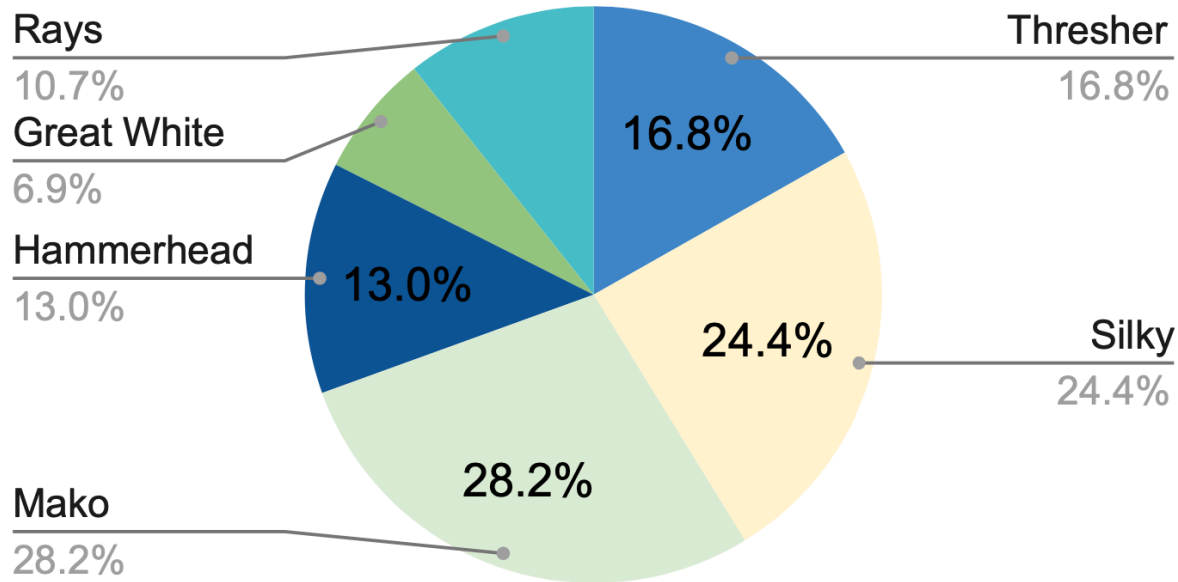
EBAY SELLERS

One high volume seller, known on ebay as "whereonearth", has received 99.9% positive feedback from the ebay community and has received 40,544 stars. Located in Spartanburg, South Carolina, this seller sells many shark parts on ebay, including those of CITES protected species. Many of the listings are contradictory. In some of these listings the seller limits shipping to the United States, but in the descriptions writes that the item will ship to international customers, as long as they pay a 93\$ fee for inspection by US Fish and Wildlife.

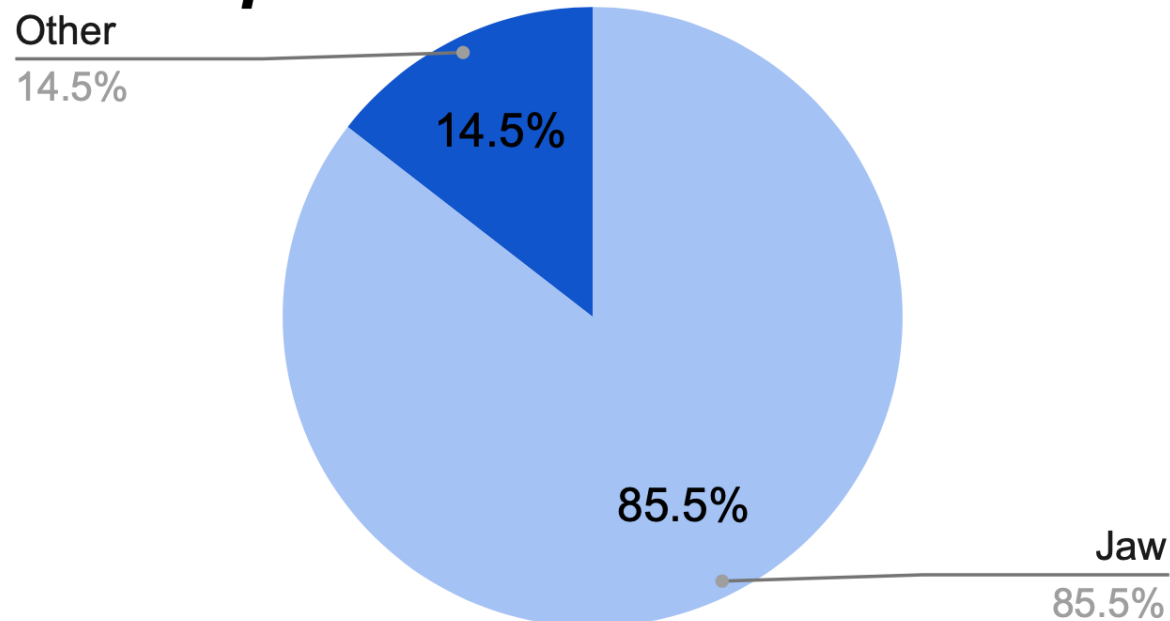
Listed as US \$146.00



Species Breakdown



Species' Part Breakdown

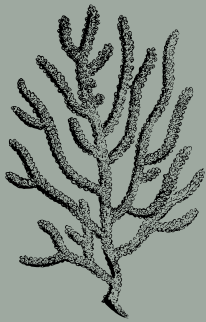


EBAY INVESTIGATION DATA



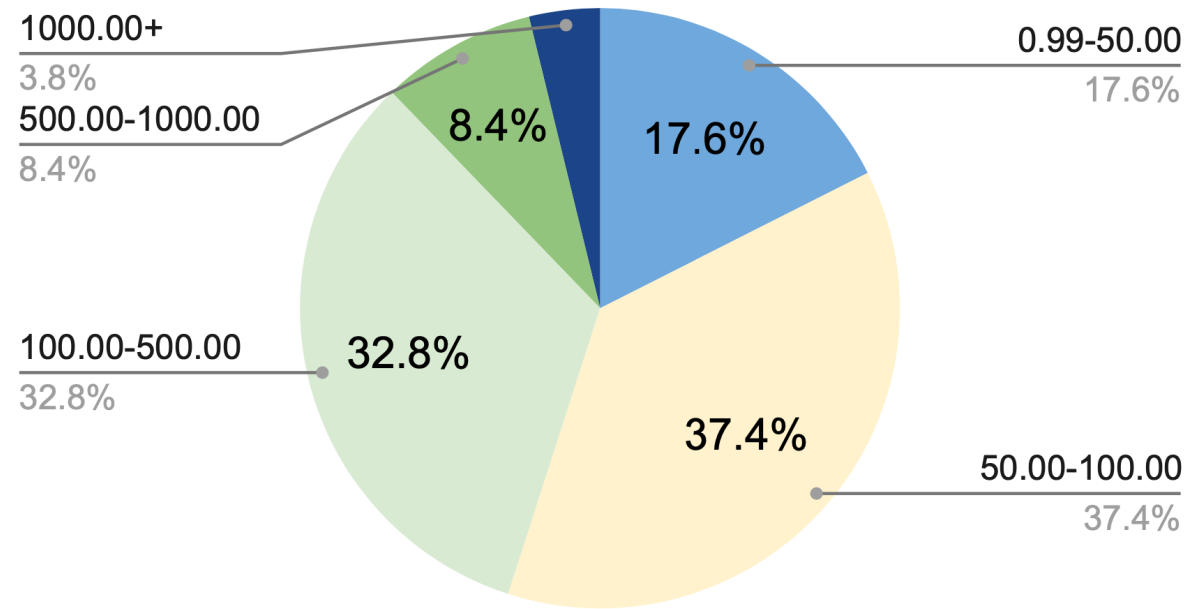
The following pie charts show the breakdown of the most common CITES protected species sold on ebay and the most common species' parts sold.

The graphs to the right display the prices of the different species' parts listed on ebay and the breakdown of ray parts listed on ebay.

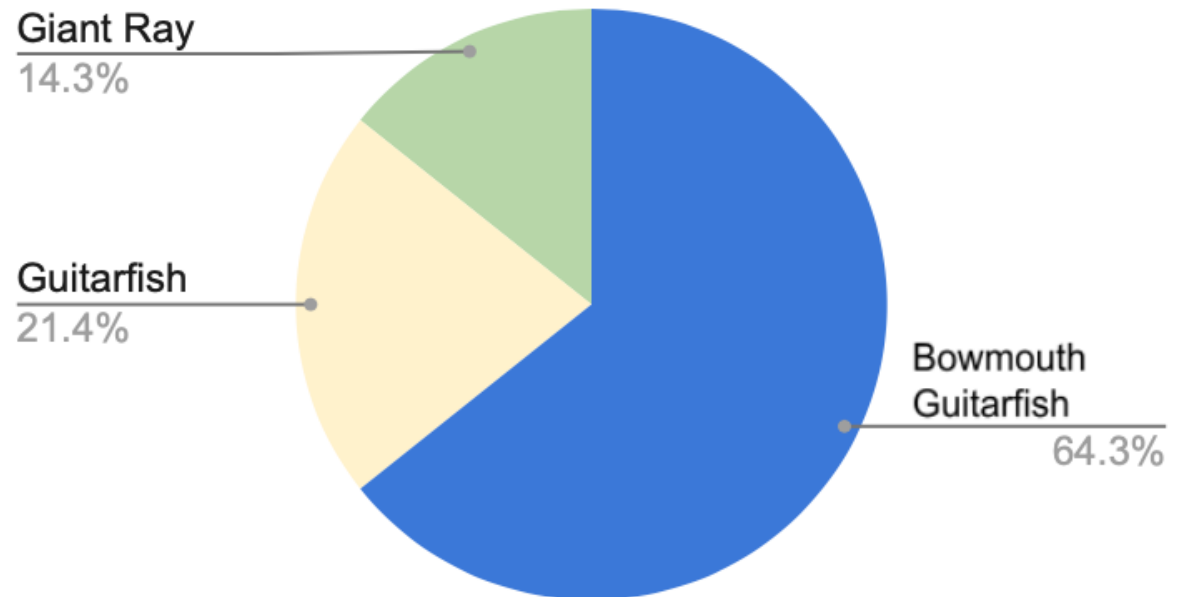


**EBAY
INVESTIGATION
DATA**

Species' Part Price Breakdown (US\$)



Ray Part Breakdown



STOP THE UNPERMITTED TRADE OF PROTECTED SHARKS AND RAYS ON EBAY

Our investigation has shown the need for more stringent regulations when it comes to the sale of elasmobranch species. The undocumented provenance of endangered species parts supports poaching and the black market trade of protected and endangered species. Ebay is condoning this trade, allowing trafficking of protected wildlife. Shark Stewards calls on ebay to ban the sale of any endangered shark, ray, or other CITES protected species. We also call on US Fish and Wildlife to regulate this issue.

For more info visit:
<https://sharkstewards.org/our-vision/>

Summary

Since data collection in April, some listings have been altered, sold, or taken down. For example, one listing that was used in our data has now been renamed. The item was originally listed as "Bowmouth Guitarfish Ray Jaw" but is now listed as "Ray Jaw". Further, upon data collection in April, no shark fins were found to be listed on ebay. However, this may have changed since the time of data collection.

