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4. *Unhealthy way of showing wealth.* Not only shark fin has little nutrition, it is found to contain high level of mercury that is harmful to pregnant women and children (may harm an unborn baby or young child's developing nervous system). This was also mentioned in local newspapers few years back. You might think that it is a biased study by environmentalists to stop you from enjoying the soup. Actually the advisory was issued by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of USA government. The advices say, "...larger fish that have lived longer have the highest levels of methylmercury because they've had more time to accumulate it. These large fish (swordfish, shark, king mackerel and tilefish) pose the greatest risk." You can spend the money for something better then.

5. *Be a responsible consumer.* Even though no police will lock you in jail for buying shark fin, you should not assume that it is alright. For example, nobody wants to fuel the businesses that employ destructive fish bombing method and child labour. In 2005, Hong Kong Disneyland was bombarded and pressured to remove shark fin soup from its banquet. Recently State Tourism Minister ordered the Fisheries Department to investigate claims of shark and whale processing activities which took place in Mabul Island. Well, some foreign divers were very upset to see sharks on the fishing boats and they complained about it in the Internet and told their friends what they saw in our so-called ecotourism site. From 2007, shark fin soup is off the menu at all functions and events organised by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry and agencies under it. In 2008, Alu-Alu Restaurant of Gayana Eco Resort's is probably the first Malaysia restaurant that removed shark fin from their menu. Hope there will be more to follow. Such trend shows that saving sharks is more than a concern of only a few environment NGOs and minority. If there is no buying, the killing will stop too. We should care about what we buy.

#### A Tradition?

The last excuse is to say serving shark fin soup in wedding banquet is a tradition. Sorry, I don't mean to be disrespectful to the Chinese culture. There is nothing wrong with the tradition, it is only the unsustainable practices behind that will make the tradition extinct with the sharks. However, I have started to see changes of attitude among the younger generation. Many Chinese I spoke to are keen to have other things such as fish maw soup, lobster soup, abalone soup and even imitation shark fin to replace the shark fin soup. Tradition is something that can evolve over time for the welfare of the nature and conservation. For example, eating dog was the tradition of certain culture in the past and nowadays most even think it is sickening to even mentioning it.

Stop eating shark fin soup will not win us a trophy. People will always view us as a weirdo for not eating shark fin. Anyway, I believe people will gradually change when they know that they are paying expensive price to buy something unworthy and sponsoring the destruction of ecology.



## WHERE TO STAY

Winner Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 243222  
Fax: 60 088 217345

Hotel Deleeton  
Phone: 60 088 252222  
Fax: 60 088 267999

Best Western Kinabalu Daya Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 240000  
Fax: 60 088 263909

The Palace Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 211911  
Fax: 60 088 211600

Hotel Shangri-La  
Phone: 60 088 212800  
Fax: 60 088 212078

Likas Square Business Suites  
Phone: 60 088 252233  
Fax: 60 088 251122

Tang Dynasty Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 263389 /  
251155  
Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

Beverly Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 258998  
Fax: 60 088 258778

Promenade Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 265555  
Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu  
Phone: 60 088 221234  
Fax: 60 088 225972

Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: 60 088 322222  
Fax: 60 088 322223

Nexus Resort Karambunai  
Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030  
Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru  
Resort  
Phone: 60 088 225800 / 41800  
/ 293306 (Reserv)  
Fax: 60 088 244871 / 217155

Sutera Harbour Resort -  
Magellan Sutera  
Phone: 6 088 318 888  
Fax: 6 088 317 777

Sutera Harbour Resort  
- Pacific Sutera  
Phone: 6 088 318888  
Fax: 6 088 317777

Imperial International Hotel  
Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: 6 088 522888 / 447200  
Fax: 6 088 522999 / 442300  
Email: www.imperialkk.com

Imperial Boutec Hotel  
Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: 6 088 525969  
Fax: 6 088 525968

Gayana Eco Resort  
Phone: 6 088 380390  
Fax: 6 088 381390  
www.gayana-eco-resort.com