

Mumbai: DRI wants info on shark fin dealers from Hong Kong importers



Shark fins Shark fin seized by DRI

Updated: Sep 26, 2018, 06:45 AM IST

Mumbai: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials are writing to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to ask Hong Kong authorities to share information on those illegally importing shark fin from Mumbai. It is in progress, the DRI said in a release.

The DRI wants information on all those involved in providing shark fins to importers from Hong Kong so that action can be initiated against them.

"We are in the process of writing to the MEA wherein we would be providing them all the details of our case and investigation pertaining to the shark fin case. The MEA can then get in touch with the Hong Kong based authorities," said a DRI official.

On September 1, DRI officials, had received information that few exporters are illegally trading fins of various species of sharks. They then seized around 8,000 kg of shark fin that were mis-declared as dried ray skins, dried marine products, fish maw, etc, to avoid detection and circumvent prohibition.

In all, 3000 kg of shark fins were seized from a godown in Sewri and 5000 kg from a godown in Veraval, Gujarat.

The agency had arrested four persons — brothers Sharafat Ali, Hamid Sultan (both owners of company known as Global Impex Forwarding, having offices and godowns in Sewri, Veraval and Tamil Nadu, Ashiq Ahmed (who made invoices and took orders) and B Shiva Raman (who used to mix ray skins with shark fins).

Probe had revealed that the entire quantity was intended for export to China and Hong Kong, where shark fin is a delicacy. One bowl of shark fin soup costs \$100 upwards, DRI officials said.

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