



NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND PROPOSED FORFEITURE

TAKE NOTICE: NOAA Case No.: NE2302462

On or around April 7, 2023, at or near United Parcel Service (“UPS”) Worldport, Louisville, Kentucky, duly authorized officers seized a cargo shipment (HAWB No. 5402291950) containing approximately 480 kg of dried silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) fins, valued at \$51,298.56; 85 kg of dried bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) fins, valued at \$13,265.44; 80 kg of dried scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) fins, valued at \$10,484.96 for violation of federal law, including the Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

The seized property is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 16 U.S.C. § 1540 and/or 16 U.S.C. § 3374.

Notice is hereby given that NOAA is commencing forfeiture proceedings against the above-described property.

Any person claiming an interest in the above-described property must file a claim within 30 days after the date of final publication of this Notice, or 35 days after service of this Notice on a party who may have an interest in the seized property, whichever is later. Said claim must be filed with the **NOAA Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Section at 55 Great Republic Drive, Suite 02-400, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930**. Such claim must be received by the above office on or before July 10, 2023, (30 days following the date the final Notice is published in accordance with 15 C.F.R. § 904.504), or 35 days after service of this Notice on a party who may have an interest in the seized property, whichever is later.

Said claim must: 1) identify the specific property being claimed; 2) state the claimant’s interest in such property (and provide documentary evidence of such interest if available) and state that the claim is not frivolous; and 3) be made under oath, subject to penalty of perjury.

If a proper claim is not received by that date, the property will be declared forfeited to the United States and disposed of according to law. If the claim is timely filed, the matter will be referred to the U.S. Attorney to institute forfeiture proceedings in a U.S. District Court.

Alternatively, you may choose to delay forfeiture proceedings (see page 3). The delay of forfeiture proceedings means that the forfeiture of the property will be stayed until the underlying case is resolved and all other proceedings have been concluded.

You may also choose to voluntarily abandon your property (see page 3). This means you voluntarily give up all interests in the property seized to the government and abandon any claims, thereby terminating your property rights and ending the forfeiture proceeding.



At any time after the seizure, but no later than 90 days after the date of forfeiture you may also petition NOAA for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture, *except that* NOAA will not consider a petition for remission or mitigation of forfeiture and restoration of proceeds while a forfeiture proceeding is pending in Federal court.

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DATES OF PUBLICATION: May 11, 2023

PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

<https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-enforcement-section/notices-of-seizure-and-proposed-forfeiture>

AGREEMENT TO DELAY FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

I agree to the delay of forfeiture proceedings until the conclusion of all related administrative or judicial proceedings, and hereby waive any requirement for immediate institution of forfeiture proceedings, including that limitation imposed pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1621.

Signature

Date

WAIVER OF CLAIM AND VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT

I voluntarily relinquish, abandon, waive, and transfer to the United States Government all of my rights, title and interest in the above-referenced property. I waive any claim in the property and/or the proceeds from the property described above, and waive any claim against NOAA or its duly authorized agents arising from the disposition of such property and proceeds.

Signature

Date