

Manta Ray of Hope

Mantas and mobula populations are being hunted for their gills

Growing demand has transformed the once small-scale subsistence fishing for mantas and mobulas into targeted commercial fisheries that serve a global distribution network.

Why? This unsustainable trade is driven by demand for the dried gills of mantas and mobulas, marketed as a health tonic under the trade name "Peng Yu Sai" (fish gills). Dried gills from a giant manta ray can retail for up to US\$ 500 per kilogram in China, whereas the meat is consumed locally and holds little value.

No medical evidence exists for marketing claims that the gills can treat health problems that include chicken pox, cancer, infertility and more.



Time is running out for mantas and mobulas

Manta and mobula populations (collectively, "mobulids") don't stand a chance against the onslaught of targeted fishing. Mobulids are very slow to mature - 8-10 years or more - and reproduce very slowly - on average one pup every 2-5 years. By comparison, the Great White Shark, a highly vulnerable species protected under Appendix II of CITES, may produce more young in one litter than a manta ray will in her entire lifetime.

In just a few short years, regional populations of mobulids have already been severely depleted and in some cases have largely disappeared.



The same international distribution network that moves shark fins is now dealing in manta/mobula gills, hastening the decline of mantas.

The general public, policy makers, and even the marine conservation field are largely unaware of the manta and mobula gill trade and its devastating impact on their populations. There are no binding international regulations to protect manta and mobula rays and little local protection.

Manta Ray of Hope: Exposing the problem.

Shark Savers has partnered with WildAid and a team of the top manta researchers in the world on the Manta Ray of Hope project, a collaboration of non-profit organizations, researchers, dive operators, governments and local communities to save mantas and mobulas from this unsustainable trade.



Manta Ray of Hope is developing global conservation campaigns based on sound science, including:

- The first comprehensive report on the destructive fishing and consumption of mobulids: ["The Global Threat to Manta and Mobula Rays"](#).
- Establishment of trade bans and sanctuaries.
- Education and awareness campaigns for consumers.
- Ecotourism development in fishing communities.

Time is running out for mantas and mobulas. We MUST act before it's too late for these magnificent animals.

How you can help:

Dive with a manta ray! Dive ecotourism offers a sustainable economic alternative to fishing.

Don't consume Peng Yu Sai.

Learn more and inform others about the urgent need for protection of manta and mobula rays.

Visit www.mantarayofhope.com and www.sharksavers.org for more information.