

**HAMMERHEAD SHARKS** like these are one of the species being seriously depleted by fishing in Atlantic waters off the East Coast. Although hammerhead meat is considered worthless, the fins are among the best for shark-fin soup, and they command an extremely high price.

## Differentiating Threatened Sharks Extremely Difficult

ervation Union's "red list" of endangered species.

"The red list has no legal weight, although it's taken very seriously by other countries—not the United States," says Tim Sullivan of Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, assistant chairman of the union's Species Survival Commission.

Eventually, the scientific group will present a case for protecting threatened sharks under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a treaty among more than 120 nations.

The United States will put the subject on the discussion agenda for the 1994 CITES meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., this November. Again, opposition to any control of marine fish is expected to be fierce. Japan already has scuttled an attempt to consider restrictions on bluefin tuna.

Differentiating threatened shark species from plentiful ones is extremely difficult. While the dead fish are still on the boat, they are gutted and beheaded, and the fins are removed.

"We'd like to have all the fish come with name tags," jokes Paul

*"If you stopped shark fishing altogether, you would not rebuild the stock in five years..."*

—Samule Gruber, Shark Specialist

Raymond, a special agent with the National Marine Fisheries Service. "What I see out there tends to look like a long, gray tube."

While pursuing independent treaties with other shark-fishing nations, the United States is moving to coordinate its state and federal regulations. Most coastal states have their own controls.

Shark-fin dealers have gotten the picture. By the time sharks are effectively regulated in U.S. waters, the dealers probably will be buying from other markets.

Regulators say the dealers already have begun testing the waters off South America.

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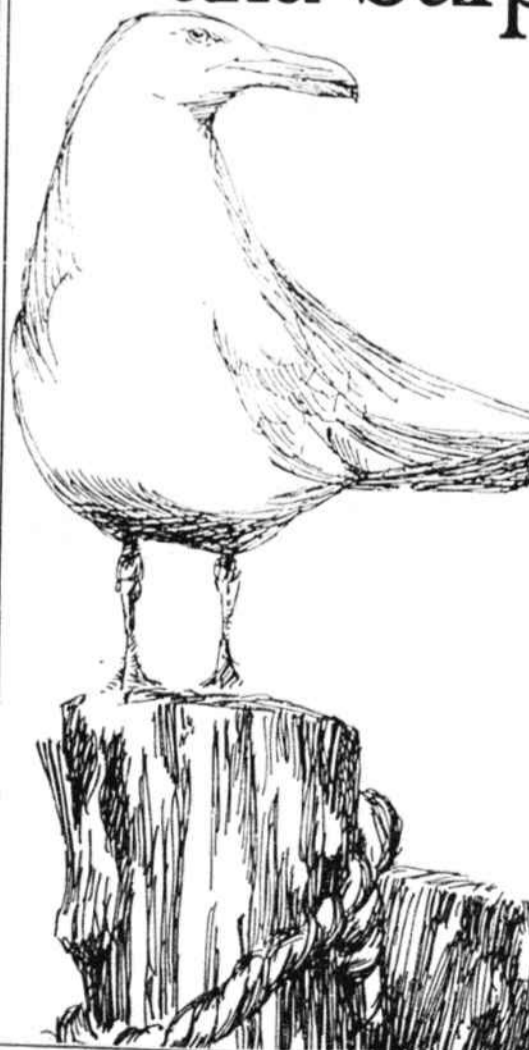
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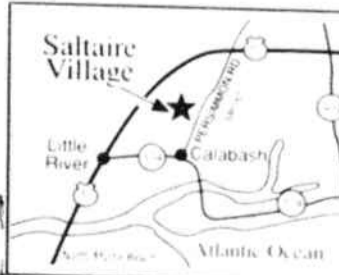


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