



Regional Micronesian shark sanctuary ready by 2012



By Online Editor

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Leaders of North Pacific nations have passed a significant resolution on shark conservation during the 15th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Pohnpei last week.

The resolution authorises the development of a regional ban on the possession, sale, offer for sale and trade of shark fins in the oceans of the Federated States of Micronesia and its four member states, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The resolution also calls for the development of a strategic framework to implement a marine-based conservation programme that will establish the world's first Regional Shark Sanctuary in Micronesia by December 2012.

Further, the document was drafted as a United Nations resolution and will be presented to the U.N. in September by Palau President Johnson Toribiong, said David Bell, special representative for public affairs and communications, Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future, the secretariat for the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

“With this initiative we are deepening our global commitment to sustainability by planning regionally and acting locally.

Each of the nine jurisdictions of council will enact their own laws based on this resolution,” said Bell.

SOURCE:M/VARIETY/PACNEWS