

Sharks: Over 250,000 metric tons of spiny dogfish were harvested throughout 1940s

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sharks were highly sought after, once targeted as primary sources of vitamin A. The spiny dogfish shark is one of the most common sharks found in temperate ocean waters.

On the West Coast, stock size reportedly averaged between 300,000 and 500,000 metric tons before the liver boom. Over 250,000 metric tons of spiny dogfish were harvested throughout the 1940s.

In California, soupfin sharks made up almost half of total landings in the early 1940s. These sharks, especially vulnerable to overfishing, mature more slowly than other species and give birth to few young at once.

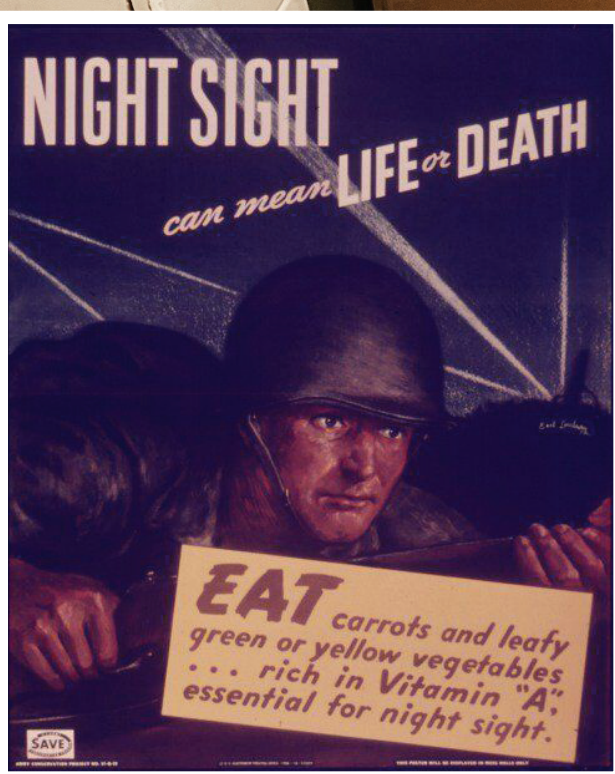
Although exact data on soupfin shark populations can be hard to accurately capture, it's believed that their numbers still haven't recovered since the 1930s.

During its peak, the shark fishing industry was a lucrative business. Shark livers could sell for as much as \$18 per pound, and many larger sharks had livers weighing multiple pounds.

These livers were stored in 5 gallon cans that weighed up to 40 pounds when fully packed. According to the Hanthorn Cannery Museum in Astoria, during one season a can was often worth \$320 each, which totals over \$4,000 in today's money.

But for as profitable as the industry was, its successes were short-lived. Demand plummeted after the invention of synthetic vitamin A in the early 1950s, leaving sharks to their home in the sea.

Julia Triezenberg is an educator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.



Julia Triezenberg
ABOVE: These 5 gallon cans, shown at the Hanthorn Cannery Museum in Astoria, once stored over \$4,000 of shark livers, adjusted for inflation. **LEFT:** Wartime propaganda stressed the importance of vitamin A for pilots.

THESE LIVERS WERE STORED IN 5 GALLON CANS THAT WEIGHED UP TO 40 POUNDS WHEN FULLY PACKED. ACCORDING TO THE HANTHORN CANNERY MUSEUM IN ASTORIA, DURING ONE SEASON A CAN WAS OFTEN WORTH \$320 EACH, WHICH TOTALS OVER \$4,000 IN TODAY'S MONEY.

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 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals V

6-4 CRYPTOQUIP

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 H E Q Z Q W N F Y W A J A S W X J Z W A Z
 E C W Q F H B X M J D I E B Z S E C I J D J M N:

"ZSF KWMZFIF CWMDE."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN BROWN BEARS AREN'T FINDING FISH TO EAT FOR A LONG TIME, THAT MIGHT BE A SALMON FAMINE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H

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