

Protect Endangered Leatherback Sea Turtles

URGE RED LOBSTER TO PULL SWORDFISH FROM THEIR MENU

Dear CEO, Darden Restaurants/Red Lobster,

We are writing to urge you to pull swordfish from the menu at all Red Lobster restaurant locations across the country. We are concerned about the health impacts of swordfish consumption and the fate of the endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtle.

In March of 2001 the US Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory warning pregnant women, women of childbearing age, and children not to consume swordfish because of its high methylmercury content;
 The Pacific leatherback turtle's nesting population has plummeted from 91,000 in 1980 to fewer than 5,000 in 2002. The longline industry that catches swordfish is also catching and killing the majestic leatherback. Leading scientists warn that unless immediate and significant steps are taken, the leatherback sea turtle, which has swum the oceans since the time of the dinosaur, will soon become extinct.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you pull swordfish from the menu of all Red Lobster restaurants. Thank you for your concern.

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Please return to: Sea Turtle Restoration Project, P. O. Box 400, Forest Knolls, CA 94933 or fax: 415.488.0372