

During this last diving expedition to Rotuma, all onboard were introduced to the shocking tragedy of shark finning in Kiribati by the presentation of photos recently taken in Phoenix Islands, Kiribati by a fellow yachtsman on the 14-17 feb 2006. All photos were kindly supplied by Alan Hoeneisen of yacht "Bebinka" if you would like to contact the source of this story at bebinka72@yahoo.com

I have been disturbed by the photos of sharks slaughtered and carelessly strewn on the beach. Being an ocean enthusiast and keen diver, there are two things i miss when out diving, seeing a turtle and glimpse of a reef shark is very rare. This sentiment is echoed amongst many of the diving fraternity in this part of the world that when you see this series of photos gives only a snapshot of what is happening..and we wonder why we see fewer sharks than say some ten or so years ago.

I plea to all who are touched by the photos taken by Alan, to spare a thought for this gracious creature that has been mistakenly feared by many of us. If there is any way you or someone you know could contribute including spreading the message of protecting this creature, please do not hesitate to do so. Imagine the situation could be reversed and this sort of exploitation could happen in Rotuma.



