Shark Mislabeling in Fancy Feast, America's leading cat food vendor

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Introduction

- Even though seafood mislabeling awareness has risen, the cat food industry remains under researched
- There is a measured negative impact on large predatory fishes (including sharks) from overfishing, which is linked to seafood mislabeling.

Methods

Sample Collection (n=141)

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Dneasy Dna Extraction

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PCR multiplexing (VF2-T1, FishR1, Fish R2, Shark 150R, Shar474F)

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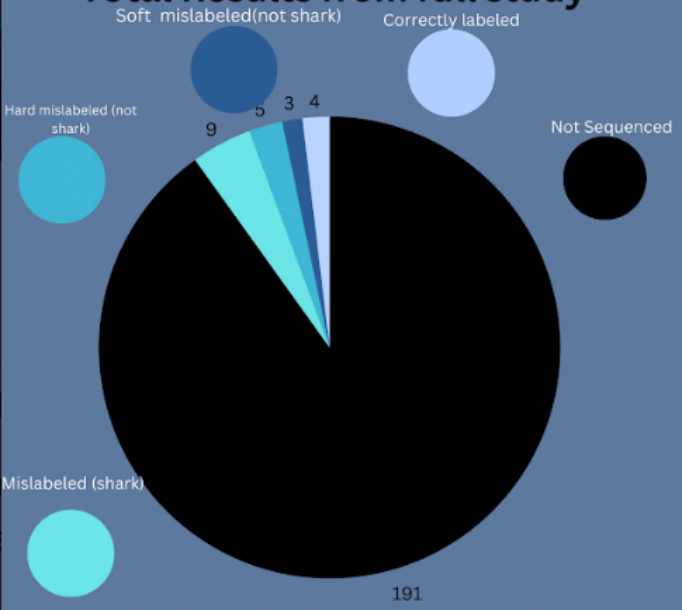
Sanger Sequencing and BLAST sequence comparisons

Results

- None of the Fancy Feast samples sequenced
- 17 non-Fancy Feast samples sequenced
- 26% contained sphyrna Lewini, a critically endangered species of large predatory shark
- in other brands,there were 5 cases of hard mislabeling and 3 of soft, making 8 cases of non shark mislabeling in total

Total Results from full study



Discussion

- Fancy Feast products cannot be sequenced with the primers used
- Endangered shark DNA can be found in other cat food brands
- Future studies of Fancy Feast–which are warranted–will need to use different methods
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Additional Notes

"Soft" vs "Hard" mislabeling

Soft: products that dont explicity mention species on their label or ingredients list that are found "e.g "ocean whitefish" being Sphyrna Lewini
"Hard":products that claim to be one species that are actually another E.G. "Tuna" being Sphyrna lewini

Why Fancy Feast

According to statista, fancy feast is one of the mot consumed brands of wet cat food, and is second only to friskies in net worth (friskies produces both wet and dry food).