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**Activists launch drive against eating shark's fin**

Animal rights activists launched a campaign in Singapore yesterday against the consumption of shark fin, a status symbol when served at Chinese wedding banquets and dinners.

The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) held the rally at Speakers' Corner, Singapore only venue for outdoor assemble and demonstrations subject to strict guidelines.

A large banner beaming the slogan 'When Sharks Die, the Ocean Die' was displayed at a nearby park close to Singapore business district.

Louis Ng, Acres executive director and founder, told 100 supporters that more than 3800 sharks were caught every 20 minutes to meet global demand for sharks fin, pushing many shark species towards extinction.

"Let us not only say no to sharks fin but let us also be advocate for sharks and tell people why we do not or will not, eat them" Ng said.

One of Acres supporters at the rally, physiotherapist Chng Chye Tuan said he and his wife had decided against offering shark fin soup to guest at their wedding next month despite opposition from both sets of parents.

"You can see the impact the human are having on the ecosystem."

"The variety of fish is not as much as before," said Chng referring to observation he had made during diving trips.