

Rosie O'Donnell's dead shark pics cause controversy

BY RUSS MARTIN, CANADA.COM JANUARY 13, 2012



Photos from Mark the Shark's website of Rosie posing with the hammerhead shark her daughter caught.

Photograph by: Handout, Mark the Shark

Rosie O'Donnell has taken to [Twitter](#) to defend a series of photos of her posing with a dead hammerhead shark. O'Donnell claims the photos were taken years ago, before hammerheads were on the [endangered species list](#), but that hasn't stopped animal activists from criticizing her.

The controversy began when the photos were uploaded to the web by Mark Quartiano, a South Florida fisherman and guide who took O'Donnell on a fishing trip. Quartiano, who goes by the moniker [Mark the Shark](#), takes guests on chartered shark hunting trips.

The photos were uploaded to Quartiano's [Monster Celebrities gallery](#) as 'This Month's Celebrity Angler.' Other celebrities Quartiano has taken on excursions include Will Smith and Robert De Niro.

O'Donnell explained the photos were taken on a family fishing trip and that her daughter caught the hammerhead, tweeting, "it was caught - reeled in by my 11 year old daughter - the hammerhead meat is used to bait crab and lobster traps .."

The [TV personality](#) doesn't think she has done anything wrong and wants activists to calm down. "i have seen sharkwater - i love the ocean - i am on it daily in miami - chill people - really - my family fishes."

A Facebook page called, "[Stop Rosie O'Donnell & Mark the Shark Hunter killing our oceans.](#)" is protesting O'Donnell's actions but she is neither apologizing nor backing down. In fact, O'Donnell has defended herself and Quartiano and even lashed out at two users who criticized her fishing trip.

In response to critical tweets from [@sith138](#) O'Donnell tweeted, "it was years ago asswipe - b4 they were on the endangered list." To another user, [@bigalosu](#), she tweeted, "dear god albert - gonna block u - twisted really - i went fishing with my family...we caught a shark - end of story."