



Shark Foundation Annual Report for 2003

February 2004

Projects

Shark Exhibit

On January 9, 2003, the Shark Exhibit was opened in the Museum of Natural History in Basel. Although it only lasted three months, Basel marked its biggest success so far thanks to the commitment of various people responsible for its organization (Dr. A. Hänggi, Dr. U. Wüest). After Basel, the Exhibit moved to the Dählhölzli Zoo in Bern where it stayed from April 17 to October 29, 2003, and then to the Museum of Natural History in Solothurn.

Investments 2003: approx. CHF 18,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 163,000

Sponsoring/donations: approx. CHF 30,000

Shark Identification Project

The Shark Identification Project based on minute tissue samples was a prominent subject in the media in 2003. This test meant one big step forward in helping CITES protect the white shark as it enables the identification of these animals. Professor Shivji also used his method to test samples of shark fins found in Asian fish markets.

Investments 2003: approx. CHF 18,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 58,000

Shark Nurseries

The Shark "Nurseries" Project in Rookery Bay / Ten Thousand Islands remains under the direction of Pat O'Donnel in cooperation with the Mote Marine Lab (Professor J. Castro). Since project begin approximately 300 young sharks have been caught and measured, 14 of which had already previously been caught.

Investments 2003: approx. CHF 1,300

Investments to date: approx. CHF 15,300

Basking Sharks

Research on shark nurseries and the migrations of basking sharks off the coast of Wales and Scotland has been successful and enjoys the continued support of EarthWatch (Project Manager: Kim Guard; Scientific Director: Colin Speedie) and the Foundation.

Investments 2002: approx. CHF 3,000 / Laptop

Investments to date: approx. CHF 6,000

Public Relations Activities of the Shark Foundation and Shark Info

Media

Dr. Gaston D. Guex had the opportunity to present the Shark Foundation in the Western Switzerland television production "Zig Zag Café" on TSR1 ("Television Suisse Romande"). A big success, the program was retransmitted on the international station TV5 and resulted in our receiving a great deal of positive feedback.

In 2003 the Shark Foundation and Shark Info office again answered many E-mails with

questions on sharks, in addition to writing diverse articles on sharks and giving interviews on current shark themes.

Administration

General

Dr. A. J. Godknecht and Dr. G. D. Guex both had full professional schedules in 2003, a fact which influenced any new activities of the Foundation and Shark Info and prevented them from starting any significant new actions.

Camera/Vemco

Dr. Ritter declared that he is not willing to return the camera and tracking material valued at over CHF 20,000 to the Foundation and on his part made some claims on the Foundation. The Foundation's lawyers in Switzerland and the U.S. were asked to intervene.

U.S. Shark Foundation

Up until now no qualified representative was found to manage the U.S. Foundation. The Foundation will continue to support its U.S. counterpart and look for qualified directors. The annual maintenance costs of the U.S. Foundation amount to about CHF 5,000. The decision as to whether or not it will be continued will be made in 2004.

Total previous administrative expenses: approx. CHF 25,000

Shark Info

For reasons of time, *Shark Info* was put on ice, with no issues published in 2003. The Foundation decided to publish *Shark Info* as of mid-2005 in an online version only.

Change of Bank

In 2003 the Foundation's bank, Bank Thorbecke, was integrated in the St. Galler Kantonalbank.

Financial Policy of the Shark Foundation

Founded on August 29, 1997, the Shark Foundation is an international organization subject to the monitoring of the Swiss Department of Home Affairs / Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Bern. It may accept tax-deductible donations and once a year is required to submit its annual report and annual statement of accounts to the Supervisory Board for approval.

The Foundation finances all its activities through donations, lectures or product sales, e.g. T-shirts or cuddly toy sharks. The Board of Trustees works on a voluntary basis and receives neither attendance fees nor any kind of salary. The Foundation runs a Shark Shop on its internet pages (T-shirts, cuddly toy sharks, tear-off notebooks, postcards, Shark sponsorships). Proceeds flow directly back into the Foundation account. Normally, each year a mailing is addressed to all interested parties with the request for a donation and including a deposit slip.

At the first meeting of the respective year the Shark Foundation's Board of Trustees decides on the application of any profit carried forward and of any donations stemming from the previous year. Up until that time, no reserves were put aside, instead all resources were released for ongoing projects, investments and administrative work. The accounting of the Foundation and of Shark Info is controlled annually by the auditing company Revisal (Gossau).
