



Shark Foundation Annual Report for 2004

January 2005

Projects

Shark Exhibit

The Shark Exhibit in the Museum of Natural History in Solothurn closed successfully on April 25, 2005, and May 12, 2004, marked its opening at the Naturama in Aarau. From Aarau it moved on to the Museum of Natural History in Lucerne on October 31, 2004, with official opening on November 13, 2004. Without exception the echos received by the Foundation from Aarau were also very positive.

Investments 2004: approx. CHF 9,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 172,000

Sponsoring / donations / income 2004: approx. CHF 14,000

Shark Identification Project

The Shark Identification Project based on minute tissue samples was extended to include new shark species in 2004. In addition, research on Asian fin markets was intensified.

Publications

Investments 2004: approx. CHF 18,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 76,000

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 439 young sharks have been caught and measured. Twenty-three of the animals had already been caught before, and twenty-three others were already dead when caught. In all, 250 to 300 volunteers put in 3,840 hours of work.

Unfortunately, a storm in August 2004 caused the sinking of the houseboat from where the project was carried out The Foundation will participate financially in reconstructing the houseboat in 2005.

Investments 2004: approx. CHF 1,500

Investments to date: approx. CHF 16,800

Basking Sharks

The 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. In 2004 the Foundation invested in an 11 megapixel camera (Canon EOS DS1) with a strong telephoto lens for the project. So far the camera has brought the desired results and allows the photographic identification of basking sharks, even at large distances.

Investments 2004: approx. CHF 3,000

Camera, incl. accessories: approx. CHF 14,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 23,000

New Project: Bull Shark Migrations Fiji

Biological data is missing for practically all shark species, especially on their precise geographical distribution areas, their migratory behavior or reliable population numbers. This also applies to widely distributed species living in coastal areas, e.g. the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucus*).

In a first phase three bull sharks were tagged with satellite transmitters equipped with self-release mechanisms, designed to come off the sharks at the end of 2004 and then float to the

water's surface. In the course of 2004 additional bull sharks were tagged with such transmitters. At the end of 2004 the first data was gathered and will be evaluated in 2005.

Investments 2004: CHF 10,000 for Argus Satellite Transmitters

New Project: Shark Protection Zone: Fiji Shark Reef

The Foundation's shark protection zone project in Fiji supports Mike Neumann's project whose objective is to transform the Shark Fin Reefs off the southern coast of Viti Levu into a shark protection zone.

The Fiji Shark Reef Project serves as a model. The village of Wainiyabia, which holds the traditional fishing rights for the reef, receives 5 Fiji dollars per diver, per day from the local diving base Beqa Adventures. In return, villagers agree to refrain from fishing on Shark Fin Reef and ensure that this fishing ban is respected. In cooperation with the Fiji government, a nature reserve for sharks and other ocean inhabitants was thus able to be created.

In a first step the Foundation finances the 10-meter motorboat "Reef Warden" for use by the trained warden to patrol the nature reserve.

Investments 2004: CHF 23,000 CHF for the boat "Reef Warden"

Public Relations Activities of the Shark Foundation and Shark Info

Media

In 2004 the office of the Shark Foundation and Shark Info again answered 150 to 200 calls and E-mails with questions on sharks, in addition to writing diverse articles on sharks and giving interviews on current shark themes. Several lectures combined with the Shark Exhibit made it possible to improve the image of sharks and to spread the news that they need protection.

Administration

General

Dr. A. J. Godknecht and Dr. G. D. Guex both had full professional schedules in 2004, a fact which influenced any new activities of the Foundation and Shark Info. Nevertheless they made time to launch two new, significant shark protection projects in Fiji in addition to supporting ongoing projects and the Shark Exhibit.

KCmera/Vemco

With the assistance of the Foundation's lawyer as well as Mr. Wegner of SharkProject, Dr. Ritter was persuaded to return the underwater camera to the Foundation. After some costly servicing, the camera is again usable for shark protection projects.

U.S. Shark Foundation

No manager for the U.S. Shark Foundation could yet be found in 2004. The decision as to whether or not the Foundation's U.S. branch office will be continued or not will be made in 2005.

Total previous administrative expenses: approx. CHF 26,000.

Shark Info

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

Change of Bank

Since the Foundation's bank, Bank Thorbecke, was integrated in the St. Galler Kantonalbank, the Foundation has to find a new bank in Germany. This is expected to be taken over by the HVB Group in Munich.

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 a 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 set 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).
