



Shark Foundation Annual Report for 2006

January 2006

Projects

Shark Exhibit

On November 13, 2004, the Museum of Natural History in Lucerne opened its doors to the Shark Exhibit and attracted a myriad of interested visitors until its closing on April 17, 2005. The Foundation organized various guided tours of the exhibit, including a presentation on sharks given by Jürg Brunnschweiler.

The first tour phase of the mobile Shark Exhibit began four years ago and ended very successfully, even scoring a record number of museum visitors in St. Gallen, Zurich and Basel. The exhibit is now in "dry dock" for revision and updating. The second tour phase is currently in the planning stage and we are looking for interested exhibitors.

Investments 2005: approx. CHF 1,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 173,000

Sponsoring / donations / income 2005: approx. CHF 8,000

Shark Identification Project

In 2005, the Shark Identification Project - based on the examination of minute tissue samples - focused on the analysis of shark fins in the Asian fin market.

Investments 2005: approx. CHF 14,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 90,000

Shark Nurseries

The Shark "Nurseries" project in Rookery Bay/Ten Thousand Islands continues to be managed by Patrick O'Donnell in cooperation with the Mote Marine Lab.

In August 2004, a hurricane caused the sinking of the houseboat that was foreseen as the project location. Early in 2005, the Foundation contributed \$ 7,000 for its restoration.

Investments 2005: approx. CHF 12,000

Investments to date: approx. CHF 16,800

Basking Sharks

Research on shark nurseries and migrations of basking sharks off the coast of Wales and Scotland (under the scientific direction of Colin Speedie) has met with success and will continue to receive the Foundation's support. Research activities have now been extended to the following regions: Cornwall, Devon, Wales, the Irish Sea, the Firth of Clyde and the Hebrides.

In 2005 the Foundation financed not only a digital camera and a watertight laptop, but also a water analysis device (CTD) for this project. The CTD allows the examination of plankton populations and chemical water parameters within the shark nurseries.

Investments 2005: approx. CHF 6,000

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

Investments to date: approx. CHF 43,000

Bull Shark Migrations Fiji

Biological data is missing for practically all shark species, especially on their exact geographical distribution areas, their migratory behavior, or reliable statistics on population sizes. This also

applies to such widely distributed, coastal species such as the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*). During the year 2004, bull sharks were tagged with satellite transmitters in order to obtain information on their long-distance migratory behavior. By the end of 2004, initial data was obtained that could be evaluated in 2005. Another subproject designed to observe the migratory behavior of bull sharks was launched in 2005. Using acoustical transmitters and receivers (Vemco), the project aims at analyzing the small-scale movements of sharks in the Fiji region. The Foundation financed the Vemco equipment with approximately CHF 9,000.

Investments 2005: CHF 9,000 for Argus Satellite Transmitters
Investments to date: approx. CHF 19,000

Shark Protection Zone: Fiji Shark Reef

The Foundation's Shark Protection project in Fiji supports Mike Neumann's plan to convert "Shark Fin Reefs", a coastal area located off the southern coast of Viti Levu, into a shark protection zone.

The Fiji Shark Reef project can serve as a model. The town of Wainiyabia, as owner of traditional fishing rights on the reef, receives 5 Fiji dollars per diver per day from Beqa Adventures (the local diving base). In return, the town refrains from fishing at Shark Fin Reef and controls the fishing ban. In cooperation with the Fiji Government, a nature reserve for sharks and other ocean inhabitants was thus created. The project also foresees training one villager per year as a gamekeeper.

In a first step, the Foundation financed the 10-meter long motorboat "Reef Warden". In 2005/2006 the shark protection zone will be extended and the Foundation guarantees a CHF 7,000 contribution to the next village for yielding their reef usage rights.

Investments 2005: CHF 7,000 provision for guarantee
Investments to date: approx. CHF 23,000

Public Relations Activities of the Shark Foundation and Shark Info

Media

In 2005 the administrative office of the Shark Foundation and Shark Info answered between 150 and 200 calls and E-mails on questions regarding sharks, edited various articles on sharks and gave numerous interviews on topical shark themes.

Various presentations, including an extensive one held in Flims for Swiss IT managers, together with the Shark Exhibit all helped to improve the image of sharks and to spread the concept of shark protection.

Web-Server

September 2005 witnessed the launching of the completely revamped webpages for www.hai.ch and www.shark.ch. In addition to the new layout and an improved informational structure, the Shark database was revised and now integrates information from the IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species. The webserver registered approx. 55,000 visitors in the first four months following this revision.

Administrativa

General

The year 2005 again found A. J. Godknecht and G. D. Guex extremely busy professionally. Since both men were working at full capacity, this prevented the initiation of any new activities for the Foundation and Shark Info.

European Elasmobranch Association (EEA)

As of November 2005, the Shark Foundation is the official representative of Switzerland to the EEA. Through this membership we hope a) to gain more effective access to the European fishing authorities and b) to make use of synergies in shark protection and achieve more efficient, European-wide coordinated activities for sharks.

The ninth meeting of the EEA took place in the Oceanarium in Monaco from November 23 to 26, 2005. There the Shark Foundation introduced itself as an organization and elaborated its endeavors for shark protection. The Foundation was unanimously admitted to the Association

as a member and thus became the official Swiss representative to the organization.

U.S. Shark Foundation

In 2005 the U.S. Shark Foundation was again registered as a non-profitable foundation seated in Miami, Florida. Donations to the U.S. Foundation continue to be tax deductible. More activities are expected to take place in 2006, including the election of an active Board of Trustees.

Total administrative costs to date: approx. CHF 27,300.

Shark Info

For reasons of time, no issues of *Shark Info* were published in 2005. As of mid-2006, *Shark Info* will only be available as an online information service. The new concept will be discussed and implemented early 2006.

Bank Connection Germany

The new bank connection for € donations in Germany is the Stadtparkasse Munich, Sparkassenstrasse 2, D-80331 Munich

Financial Policy of the Shark Foundation

Established on August 29, 1997, the Shark Foundation is an internationally active organization that falls under the supervision of the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) / Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority in Bern. The Foundation can accept tax-deductible donations and once a year it submits its annual report and financial statement to the supervisory authority for approval.

The Foundation finances all its activities through donations, presentations or the sale of products such as T-shirts or plush toy sharks. The Board of Trustees works on a voluntary basis and its members receive neither attendance fees nor salaries. The Foundation runs a "Shark Shop" on its Internet website (t-shirts, cuddly plush toy sharks, tear-off notebooks, postcards, shark sponsorships). Sales revenues flow directly into the Foundation account, and once a year all interested parties are sent a mailing requesting donations and including a pay-in slip. In its first meeting of the respective year, the Board of Trustees of the Shark Foundation decides on the usage of any accumulated income and donation money from the previous year. Up until then no provisions are set aside; instead all funds are released to cover ongoing projects, investments and administrative costs. With immediate effect, Revisal, an auditing company located in Gossau, will be checking the annual accounting for both the Foundation and Shark Info.
