

SHARK RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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ATTENTION - UW Photographers!

Crawford Multimedia is assembling photos for a CD-ROM on sharks for the Discovery Channel. Any members who have slides they wish to submit for consideration should contact Lillian Pair in Crawford's Acquisition Department. Write or phone her at Crawford Multimedia, 3098 Piedmont Road, Suite 150, Atlanta GA 30301, Telephone: (404) 365-2266.

Many UW photographers have loaned original images to SRI for use in our educational presentations. If Crawford selects any of these images from our photo library the reproduction fees will have to be negotiated between Crawford and each photographer, and the fees paid directly to the photographer.

From Africa...

Andrew Gifford reports whale shark strandings are presenting difficulties. "The sharks thus far have stranded dorsal surface upward, making it very difficult for the team to perform a dissection of the shark's vital organs, even with a chain saw". He is having a five-ton winch fitted to the Cape Vidal vehicle which should enable him move a whale shark carcass into a position that will facilitate dissection.

The team reports that on January 15th they spotted 95 whale sharks on a one-way 108-kilometre aerial survey between the old whaling station on Durban's bluff and Umtentweni!

Trident Divers (Durban) also participated in SRI's Whale Shark Study as spotters. The divers were taught how to sex the sharks and record the location of scars and other characteristics that permit re-identification of individuals.

Twelve whale sharks were tagged by the SRI team during the 1993-1994 season, and many more were recorded on aerial surveys. The numbers of sharks dwindled in late February; four aerial surveys in early March were dry runs.

SRI Video Library...

Andrew Gifford sent a video tape to HQ that records the white shark tagging procedures used by ORI and SRC. On the same tape there is an interview with shark attack survivor Andy Austin (see back page). The tape is PAL format and not compatible with the USA's NTSC. SRI has a multi-system TV/VCR at HQ for members who wish to view the tape at Princeton.

Public Education...

Marie Levine and Marcia Bair presented "Diver's Guide to Sharks" at Beneath the Sea Symposium in New York on March 26, 1994. Due to a death in the family Maurice Coutts was unable to deliver his presentation, "The Gentle Giants of Ningaloo Reef." SRI always keeps its commitments, and so Marie and Marcia created a second presentation in less than 24 hours and delivered it in Maurice's time slot. Now that is teamwork!

Marie and Marcia also produced a handout that enables divers to identify dangerous and potentially dangerous species of sharks. SRI volunteers staffed a booth at the symposium for the three-day show.

On March 9th Maurice Coutts gave a lecture and video presentation on bull sharks and manta rays at the Rider University Marine and Scuba Club in Lawrenceville, NJ. On March 23rd Marie Levine gave a short presentation on sharks to Mrs. Lang's kindergarten class at Riverside School, Princeton.

\$ Funding...

Funding still continues to be an obstacle for SRI; clearly we need a professional fund-raiser -- but we haven't the funds to hire one. A Catch 22. When research projects need equipment Board members and researchers have been digging into their own pockets. Marie Levine recently purchased a Nikonos V camera, lens and strobe for the Whale Shark Study out of her savings, and Andrew Gifford has absorbed most of the other costs of that project. The whale shark taggers need a GPS. Can anyone help them out?

Global Shark Attack File ...

Case 407: On January 30, 1994, windsurfer Andy Austin was bitten on the calf by a shark (species undetermined) at Nahoon Beach, RSA. This is the second time Mr. Austin has been attacked; in 1980 he was swimming at Kings Beach, Port Elizabeth, RSA, when a raggedtooth shark, *E. taurus*, bit his arm, resulting in three small puncture wounds.

Case 408: On February 12, 1994, surfer Kevin Anderson was bitten on the leg by a white shark, *C. carcharias*, at Beachwood, Port Elizabeth, RSA. He did not suffer any tissue loss and is expected to make a full recovery.

Case 409: On February 27, 1994, spearfisherman Gary Lieberman was attacked by a shark at Saxon Reef, RSA. He was uninjured but his fin was bitten. The three cases have been fully investigated by Andrew Gifford.

Members' Bookshelf...

A "must read": Dr. Peter Klimley's paper titled "The Predatory Behavior of the White Shark" in the March-April 1994 issue of *American Scientist* (Vol. 82, No.2, in case you miss the issue).

Publicity...

The February 22, 1994, issue of the Princeton Packet ran a front-page story on SRI. The article was written by Laurie Lynn Strasser.