

SHARK RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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From Australia...

In May 1995 Jon Presser (Primary Industries of South Australia Fisheries) and Ross Allen (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) produced a discussion paper titled "Management of the White Shark in South Australia." In the paper they submitted six proposals, including one that seeks to have the white shark be declared a Protected Species under Section 42 of the Fisheries Act 1982. SRI supports their efforts, and a copy of the paper is available for members' review at HQ.

From Mozambique...

SRI's Whale Shark Study has expanded to Mozambique waters. Our Mozambican tagging team, headed by Mark Addison of African Watersports, tagged two whale sharks last month.

From South Africa...

The Natal Sharks Board is continuing field tests of their Protective Oceanic Device (better known as the POD) with surfers and divers. The device surrounds the wearer within a 120-volt electric field, and has reportedly been effective in repelling white sharks, bull sharks, tiger sharks and mako sharks. The POD runs on batteries and is the size of a coffee mug. It can be clamped onto a SCUBA tank, embedded into a surfboard or sewn into a lifejacket. It is expected that production will start in October, and the units will retail for about \$150 apiece.

Public Education...

On May 17th Marie Levine spoke before the Pacific Asia Travel Association meeting held at the Canadian Consulate in New York. Her presentation, S.O.S. - Save Our Sharks, spotlighted the need for the travel industry to become more proactive in protecting sharks – as economic resources for the tourist industry. Marie cited recent ecotourism industry studies, including the 'Scuba Times' magazine study which found that in 1994 some 21,000 sport divers made 'shark dives' in the Bahamas alone.

From June 25 to July 1 Sue Smith will be presenting a lecture series on board the *Nekton Pilot*, a live-aboard dive boat based at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Marie Levine will be the guest speaker July 16-22, and Maurice Coutts from September 10-16. The *Nekton Pilot* seeks to enrich their passengers' dive experience by providing an on-board specialist each week. Their passengers

can book a cruise with a marine biologist or an UW photographer, an oceanographer or a shark behaviorist.

Global Shark Attack File...

Marie Levine was researching shark attacks in Corpus Christi, Texas, when she took a detour to the University of Texas Marine Science Institution in Port Aransas. In their library she came across a book published a quarter century ago that listed shark attacks in Florida. She tracked down the authors: Dr. Regina Skocik and Morris Vorenberg, an investigator for the International Shark Attack File back in the 1960s. Morris didn't lose his interest in sharks after funding for the File ceased. He continued to investigate attacks that occurred in the Bahamas and Florida. Morris joined SRI in May, and placed 15 thoroughly researched and previously undocumented attacks in our database.

Members' Bookshelf...

Don't miss Shark Smart, The Divers' Guide to Understanding Shark Behavior, by Richard Martin. Richard, marine biologist and stand-up comic, takes an authoritative and often hilarious look into shark psychology. He shares his most memorable (and embarrassing) shark stories, explains why sharks do what they do, offers advice for divers who want to get close to sharks in the wild without ending up as sushi, and provides guidelines for identifying 15 of the most commonly encountered species found in the Caribbean. Order your copy direct from the author. His address is: 310-170 East Third Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7L-1E6, Canada.

Reader's Digest to feature SRI member Kenny Doudt...

Kenny Doudt asks SRI members to pick up the July 1995 issue of Reader's Digest. It will feature a condensation of his book, Surfing with the Great White Shark. It is Kenny's account of his attack by a white shark while surfing at Cannon Beach, Oregon, in 1979. Copies of Kenny's book are available at HQ for \$10 each, including postage.

On the Road...

As we go to press Maurice Coutts is filming sharks in Isla Mapelo and Konna Island off the coast of Columbia.

Sue Smith, SRI's whale shark tagger, will be spending her summer in the United States. Sue will be a featured speaker on board the Nekton Pilot (see front page). Afterwards she will meet with Scot Eckert, of Hubbs Sea World Research Institute, in San Diego. Scot has succeeded in placing several satellite tags in whale sharks for short periods. Sue hopes to plant a satellite tag during the 1996-1997 season, but her objective requires transmissions over long period of time.

Sue will be spending the month of August in Princeton. Come to HQ and get a first-hand report on the work of our Whale Shark Study team.