

Summer 2020

SHARK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Newsletter

Shark Research Institute Global Headquarters
70 Heather Lane • Princeton, NJ 08540 • USA • Phone: 609-915-5211 • www.sharks.org

The Ring of Fire Expeditions



Caladan Oceanic, a private company, founded by polar and ocean explorer Dr. Victor Vescovo, is dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supports expeditions to increase the understanding of the oceans. Some 80% to 90% of the ocean still remains unexplored says Dr. Vescovo.

There are four phases of the Caladan Oceanic's Ring of Fire Expedition 2020 utilizing *Limiting Factor*, the first commercially-certified full-ocean-depth DSV (deep submergence vehicle):

- Series 1: Started June 5, 2020. Astronaut Dr. Kathy Sullivan and pilot Victor Vescovo reached Challenger Deep, the deepest known point in the Earth's seabed with a depth of 35,798 feet (10,911 metres). It was October 11, 1984, 36 years ago, that Dr. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space, and is now the first woman to dive to the deepest sector of the ocean.
- Series 2: June 17-28, 2020. Kelly Walsh, son of Dr. Don Walsh, will descend to the Western Pool of Challenger Deep. Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard, aboard the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, dived into the Challenger Deep in 1960.
- Series 3: June 29-July 10, 2020. Dives will be to the Northern Mariana Trench.
- Series 4: July 11 to late July, 2020. Dives to Challenger Deep to Emden Deep, at 10,000 metres it is the deepest point in the Philippine Trench.

The expeditions will also map the sea floor.

Much more to come!



Drs. Kathy Sullivan & Victor Vescovo

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Interview by Emma Claisse</i>	2	<i>Upcoming Events</i>	7
<i>Lego Movie</i>	3	<i>Bookshelf</i>	7
<i>Sign up for Weekly news.</i>	3	<i>Hawaii Expeditions</i>	8
<i>Trophy Hunters Pac</i>	3	<i>Djibouti Expeditions</i>	9
<i>Sawfish v. Sawshark</i>	4	<i>Shark Shop</i>	10
<i>Community Auction</i>	5	<i>Journal Articles</i>	11
		<i>Our Supporters</i>	12

Interview with *Melissa Cristina Márquez* by *Emma Claisse*



Melissa Cristina Márquez

During my incredibly elongated spring break, I realized that this extra time was the perfect opportunity to find out more about how some amazing women are doing their part to help sharks.

One person I researched was Melissa Cristina Márquez, a prominent Latina marine biologist. She is the founder of her own non-profit organization aimed at educating people around the world about sharks and their conservation, called The Fins United Initiative, as well as her own Spanish language podcast, ConCiencia Azul, demonstrating her commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in science. On top of all this, Melissa has been a speaker for TEDx, featured on Shark Week, and is also a regular contributor to Forbes Science.

I reached out to Melissa, and she graciously agreed to answer some questions about her work, her inspirations, and how she got to where she is today:

When and how did you realize you had a passion for the ocean and a special interest in sharks?

Ever since I was little, I have been fascinated with the ocean! I don't remember a time I wasn't enamored with our oceans or sharks.

I'm amazed by everything you do! It seems that you are equally as much an entrepreneur as you are a scientist. What inspired you to start your organization and your podcast?

While living in Sarasota, Florida I realized that many people who used Sarasota Bay didn't know sharks called it home! With the encouragement of a professor, she set me up with a classroom to go in and teach about sharks. I loved it so much I decided to offer these "shark talks" worldwide on the side while I studied my degrees. As for the podcast, Speak Up For Blue's Andrew Lewin came up with

the idea and allowed me to run with it! I believe that conversations about conservation should be had in every language.

Could you talk a little about your educational journey?

"I have always been fascinated by sharks and was privileged enough to get my scuba diving license back in 2009 (when I was a teenager), solidifying my want to study marine biology. I worked hard in high school and got accepted to New College of Florida in Sarasota, Florida where I was able to 'create' my

own degree of Marine Ecology and Conservation. New College is unique in that it has the month of January off as an “ISP” (Independent Student Project) time that allows one to pursue local and international projects with the idea of it becoming a thesis in your last year. During these ISP’s I went to the Bimini Shark Lab (Bimini, Bahamas) and Ocean’s Research (South Africa) to work with sharks.

During my undergraduate degree I also founded The Fins United Initiative (TFUI; formerly known as Sarasota Fins) and began doing scientific outreach on a national scale...I moved across the world to study at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand in August 2015 graduated with my MSc in Marine Biology in 2016...

What advice would you give to high school students who want to pursue a career path similar to yours?

My advice is get good grades, follow your passions, and try to volunteer with aquariums or museums that allow you to interact with the animals.”

You mentioned that you’re currently based in Australia! What are you up to over there?

I’m doing my PhD at Curtin University! I am focusing on shark habitat use (why sharks are where they are) and human-wildlife conflict.

You are definitely a role model to me and many other students! Who were your role models growing up and who are they now?

My role models are Eugenie Clark (RIP) and David Attenborough, still to this day! They both brought the natural world to life for me and I cannot thank them enough for how they have shaped my views of wildlife and nature.

Melissa’s commitment to her field as well as education is truly inspiring, especially to other young women who want to pursue a career in marine sciences.

White Shark Lego Movie

This wonderful Lego stop motion movie about the white shark was created by 10-year-old Lakan for his 4th grade final project. He hopes it will help spread the word about preserving great whites. WOW!

Watch it now at: <https://www.sharks.org/kids-helping-sharks>



Stay Informed!

To receive our **Weekly** newsletter—**Shark & Ocean News**—sign up on the home page of our website: www.sharks.org

Killing is NOT Conservation!

When we read the article linked below we began digging deeper to verify the information presented, and uncovered even more disturbing details.

Be Warned. This may shake your faith in our species.

<https://wildthingsinitiative.com/how-american-hunting-organizations-conduct-information-warfare-on-social-media/>



Sawfish or Sawshark—How are they Different?

by Hunter Noren



A photo of the smalltooth sawfish I dived with in March off the port of Miami. This photo was taken by my dive buddy Rebecca Ross of Miami Dade DERM

of Lorenzini) in their snouts which they use to find prey and navigate. Both use their toothed saws as weapons to cut down and incapacitate prey with side-to-side movements. And both species spend most of their time on the seabed although sawfish prefer coastal waters, while sawsharks are usually in deeper waters.

The most obvious difference is their size: sawfish can grow to a length of more than 20 feet and weigh more than 1,200 pounds, but a really large sawshark is around five feet in length and weighs perhaps 20 pounds. Their saws are very different too: The saw of a sawfish is rimmed with teeth of equal size, while the saw of sawsharks is lined with teeth of varying sizes from large to small.

There are eight species of sawsharks: sixgill sawshark, *Pliotrema warreni*; longnose sawshark, *Pristiophorus cirratus*; tropical sawshark, *Pristiophorus delicatus*; Japanese sawshark, *Pristiophorus japonicus*; southern sawshark, *Pristiophorus nudipinnis*; Bahamas sawshark, *Pristiophorus schroederi*. There are also the newly discovered kaja's six-gilled sawshark, *Pliotrema kaja*, and Anna's six-gilled sawshark, *Pliotrema annae*, found off the coasts of Zanzibar and Madagascar. *Pliotrema kaja* sp. nov. differs from *P. annae* sp. nov. in a longer snout, more numerous large lateral rostral teeth and upper jaw tooth rows, jaw teeth with (vs. without) sharp basal folds, and coloration, particularly pale to light brown (vs. medium to dark brown) dorsal coloration with (vs. without) two indistinct yellowish stripes.

For a Revision of the sixgill sawsharks, genus *Pliotrema* (Chondrichthyes, Pristiophoriformes), with full descriptions of two new species and a redescription of *P. warreni*, go to:

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228791>

There are five recognized species of sawfishes living worldwide today: the narrowtooth sawfish, *Anoxypristis cuspidate*; the green sawfish, *Pristis zijsron*; the dwarf sawfish, and *Pristis clavata*. Two other species are found in U.S. waters: the largetooth sawfish, *Pristis pristis*, which is limited to the Gulf of Mexico; and the smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*, that is now only found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida. Since 2003, the U.S. has listed the smalltooth sawfish as endangered. There has been a ban on inshore fishing nets in Florida waters for more than a decade and there are prohibitions and fines against intentionally capturing, harming or harassing sawfish.

After reading Dave Grant's article, "Vanishing Sawfish", in our last newsletter, several members asked me how to tell sawfish and sawsharks apart.

Well, for a start, both are elasmobranch fishes, but a sawfish is a ray with gills on its underside, while a sawshark is a shark with gills on its sides like other sharks. Both have thousands of electroreceptors (Ampullae

A Community Auction: Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Organized and led by Hamilton Jewelers, The Princeton Community Auction, launched on April 20, 2020 and closed on May 20, 2020, evolved quickly from a small idea to a convergence of unity and community among hundreds of bidders and dozens of donors. The auction raised nearly \$40,000 to support small businesses in the Princeton region. The funds raised were allocated equally among 25 eligible local businesses in need of dire assistance for operational expenses.

When the Siegel family of Hamilton Jewelers noticed small businesses in downtown Princeton shuttering barely a week after the imposed shelter-in-place order took effect, they decided action was needed. Hamilton is a local business itself, having been a part of Mercer County for over 100 years and four generations, so they decided to put together an auction to support their neighbors. As president Hank Siegel said, “one of Hamilton's core values is relationships because we don't just do business in our communities...we live in them, and we cherish our strong ties to them. We look at Princeton area businesses as family. We knew that, on the other side of this pandemic, we wanted every one of our Princeton neighbors to open back up strong and ready to serve the community.” Hence the genesis of the The Princeton Community Auction.

The auction not only provided a platform for community members to contribute towards local business relief but also created a way for local businesses to help each other. From one-of-a-kind experiences to merchandise and gift cards, to knowledge and expertise, the donations started pouring in. Says vice president Donna Bouchard, “the expression of community spirit was incredible to see; even those who were in critical financial condition themselves still found a way to contribute their time or expertise.”

Both individuals and businesses made generous donations resulting in over 125 unique items, and the auction soon gained tremendous traction. With offerings ranging from white shark and whale shark adoptions, yoga glasses, golf outings, and much more...the auction made for an exciting online experience during an otherwise discouraging time. At the height of the auction, over 600 individuals had registered for bidding and there were several high-stake bidding wars in play. In addition, guests to the auction were invited to make a cash donation if they so desired, which represented approximately \$3,000 of the funds raised.

Hamilton Jewelers funded the initiative including all technology, reporting, auction licensing, etc., and managed all aspects of coordinating the launch and completion of the program. All winning bidders were then connected to the donors to direct logistics of prize redemption, with consideration for items that need to be redeemed when New Jersey is reopened to full capacity and social distancing is relaxed. We hope other businesses around the county will follow Hamilton Jewelers leadership.

John E. Randall, Ichthyologist 1924-2020

John (Jack) Randall began his scientific career in the 1950s as scuba diving was opening the ocean to exploration. He swam the world's oceans, identified hundreds of new fish species and named 834 of them. "Jack was the greatest ichthyologist in history. Period," wrote Richard Pyle senior curator of ichthyology at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

"It was a great privilege to have known and dived with Jack," said Marie Levine. "I was a marine archeologist when we met long ago, and it was Jack who changed my focus to fish—he changed my life". In an interview Dr. Sylvia Earle said his breadth of experience meant that "he was a witness to change," she said. He saw firsthand the damaging effects of overfishing and global warming. "He could see the decline," she said, "and shared with many of us the grief of seeing the ocean unravel." His perception of fishes' features was so refined, she added, that he could distinguish individual faces, the way that humans recognize one another.

In his later years he found it difficult to walk but not to swim. Brad Tarr, his former curatorial assistant, wrote Jack's memorial page that when he entered the ocean he "immediately transformed into a fish—he had no physical limitations once in the ocean."

Shark Research Institute staff and members extend our deepest condolences to his family: his wife, Margaret, daughter Loreen Randall O'Hara, his son Rodney, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Bruce Bowker 1947-2020



It is with deep sadness we report our friend and supporter, Bruce Bowker has died as result of head injuries sustained in an accident.

Bruce grew up in Milford, NJ and had an incredible love of nature and NJ diving. In 1973, during a YMCA instructor's institute in Princeton run by the late Dr. Maurice Coutts, a member of SRI's Board, he met Captain Don Stewart. Don, impressed by Bruce's technical skills, invited to work for him in Bonaire for a "few weeks". Bruce accepted, and those few weeks became years. In 1980, Bruce and his late wife Liz opened Carib Inn on Bonaire as a hotel and dive operation. Bruce's warmth and expertise soon made Carib Inn a top dive destination on the island. Bruce was also one of Bonaire's greatest protectors, working ceaselessly to protect the island's natural resources. It was due in large part to Bruce that Klein Bonaire was saved from development and is now part of Bonaire National Marine Park.

Shark Research Institute staff and members extend our sincere condolences to Bruce's family: his sister, Sally Szelag; his nieces, Sandi Szelag and Lynne Culbreth; his nephew, Bob Szelag; and great-nephew, Tanner Ferraro.

Upcoming Events

Many scheduled Events were cancelled due to Covid-19. Those listed below are tentative, depending on what the virus decides to do and how soon a vaccine will be available.

June 18-20, 2020: Annual Meeting of the Undersea & Medical Society Meeting. Venue: Sheraton San Diego & Marina, San Diego, California. <https://www.uhms.org/meetings/annual-scientific-meeting/uhms-annual-scientific-meeting-information.html>

July through September: Fossil Shark Tooth Hunts. Check our website for dates and locations.

July 20–26, 2020: American Elasmobranch Society Meeting. (Date subject to change) Venue: Norfolk, Virginia.

September 2020: Three expeditions to catalog tiger sharks in Hawaii (see next page)

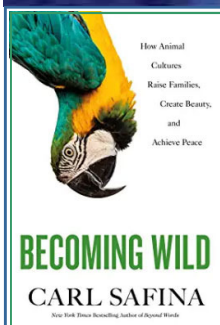
September 10-12, 2020: Surf Expo. Venue: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL., Surf Expo's top priority is the health and safety of their attendees, exhibitors and staff and will include the following protocols

Enhanced cleaning: In addition to its already rigorous cleaning protocols which include reinforced cleaning systems, the OCCC has now implemented ultraviolet (UV) light for disinfection to meeting spaces, along with increasing the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing has been increased in all public areas.

Social distancing: The OCCC will be installing health and hygiene reminders throughout the property, in addition to other protocols, to aid in reducing crowding.

Additional sanitation stations: Sanitation stations will be placed at key guest and employee entrances and contact areas such as reception areas, entrances, stairs, elevator, escalator landings in OCCC public spaces.

Bookshelf



Becoming Wild by Carl Safina. Available on AmazonSmile. Kindle \$14.99, Hardcover \$26.99

Becoming Wild offers a glimpse into cultures among non-human animals through looks at the lives of individuals in different present-day animal societies. By showing how others teach and learn, Safina offers a fresh understanding of what is constantly going on beyond humanity. With reporting from deep in nature, alongside individual creatures in their free-living communities, this book offers a very privileged glimpse behind the curtain of life on Earth, and helps inform the answer to that most urgent of questions: Who are we here with?

Shark Stories by Al J. Venter. Available on AmazonSmile. Paperback, \$42 on AmazonSmile

Al Venter is a war correspondent, filmmaker and diver. He is best known as an authority on recent military history, and has spent much of his professional career reporting on major conflicts across the world for news and photo agencies. A prolific author, 55 other books by Venter are available on Amazon. SRI Executive Director Marie Levine has ghost-written chapters in several of his books along with two of the chapters in Venter's *Underwater Mauritius*.



TIGER SHARK IDENTIFICATION EXPEDITIONS

Join a Shark Research Institute expedition in Hawaii to assist with research on tiger sharks

Multiple dates during September 2020

Three expeditions will be led by Charlie Fasano, SRI Regional Director-Hawaii. Citizen scientists participate in cataloging individual tiger sharks. The objective is to determine tiger sharks' annual use of the area. The project will also increase the biological information available to guide conservation efforts for this species, on both a regional (Hawaiian) and global scale, with important data such as life history, species distribution, abundance and diversity, population productivity, and extinction risk. This information will then be used to inform international conservation forums such as CITES, as well as local fishery risk assessment and management plans. An education and awareness campaign on the status of Hawaii tiger sharks will be conducted in conjunction with the survey to increase awareness of the habitat use of the species.



Charlie Fasano, Expedition Leader

Location

Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Cost

Expedition Alpha: Sept 9 -14 (6 resort days, 5 nights, 9 dives)
\$3250 double; \$3950 single occupancy.

Expedition Bravo: Sept 16 - 21 (6-days) \$3250 double; \$3950 single occupancy.

Expedition Charlie: Sept 23 - 28 (6-days) \$3250 double; \$3950 single occupancy.

Kama'aina (For local residents who do not need accommodations): \$1100 (3-dive days, 3-dives-per-day). Kama'aina expedition members are still afforded all presentations.

Included

Accommodations at King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel Courtyard Marriott, Kailua Kona, HI (garden room; upgrades available). All passengers embark and disembark at the hotel pier. The expedition includes daily boat dives to catalog resident tiger sharks of Big Island, Hawaii. Tiger sharks and dolphins will be viewable. Nitrox is available and required.

Not included

Airfare To Kailua Kona (KOA), Hawaii. Manta Ray and tethered Blackwater night dives are available at an additional cost. Alcohol and meals, Gratuity, Dive gear (available for rental), Concierge activity services. **NOTE:** Dive insurance and travel insurance are required.

A \$500 deposit is due to reserve your space. Balance due 60 days prior to departure, 50% of the deposit will be returned if canceled before 60 days prior to departure.

For additional information or to reserve your space, contact: Charlie@sharks.org

DJIBOUTI WHALE SHARK EXPEDITIONS

Join a Shark Research Institute expedition to assist with research on this fascinating population of the world's largest shark

November 27 to December 5, 2020 and/or December 4 to 12, 2020

Join an expedition led by SRI Director of Science and Research, Dr. Jennifer Schmidt, to study the whale sharks that aggregate in the Gulf of Tadjoura, Djibouti, Africa. Djibouti hosts an aggregation of the youngest whale sharks found anywhere. Most sharks are between three and five metres with two metre animals occasionally seen. Participants will act as research assistants, documenting whale sharks by photo identification, collecting and analyzing plankton samples and hopefully observing night-feeding behavior. Research goals are to understand where these animals come from, why young sharks congregate in the area, and where they go when they leave.

Our home for this liveaboard expedition is the *M/V Deli*, a Turkish gulet that accommodates 12 people in shared rooms with private baths. The chef prepares a daily menu of local and continental cuisine. Whale shark interactions are snorkel only, but excellent diving is available from the boat at sites such as Ras Korali, Turtle Point, Moucha Island, and La Faille, a convergence of tectonic plates. Whale shark interactions and diving are available each day, and participants may choose any combination of activities.

Cost: \$2,300* includes shared accommodation on the boat, double occupancy hotel for the nights of November 28th and December 4th or December 5th and 11th, all meals on the ship, hotel and port transfers, and a tax-deductible donation to the Shark Research Institute. Not included are airfare, Djibouti visa, soda and beer, and meals off the ship. Post-trip excursions are available to explore the geologic formations and vast salt lakes of the East African rift valley. **NOTE:** Dive insurance and travel insurance are required.



The site is remote, and accommodations basic, but the experience is unmatched. Share this unique wildlife expedition to a stark and beautiful corner of the world.

For more details or to reserve your space, contact the expedition leader at Jennifer@sharks.org

*Payments made through PayPal will incur an additional \$50 per person processing fee.

Shark Shop



Shirts to Show You Care

Support SRI by ordering a t-shirt, tank top, or hoodie. Sizes range from youth to adult XL. Check out the variety of colors and styles! Plan ahead so you can celebrate International Whale Shark Day (August 30th) in style with a commemorative shirt.

Shipping dates vary depending on when orders are placed, but shirts usually arrive within three weeks.

Order a shirt on our Facebook page or use the links below:

Infinity Sharks

<https://www.bonfire.com/sharks/>

Save Our Sharks

<https://www.bonfire.com/sharks-save/>

International Whale Shark Day

<https://www.bonfire.com/sharks-whaleshark/>

Ban the Shark Fin Trade

<https://www.bonfire.com/sharks-ban/>

Protect Great White Sharks

<https://www.bonfire.com/protect-sharks/>

White Hai (White on dark-colored shirts)

<https://www.bonfire.com/white-hai/>

I Love Sharks

<https://www.bonfire.com/i-love-sharks/>

Kai's Shadow (Black on light-colored shirts)

<https://www.bonfire.com/kais-shadow/>

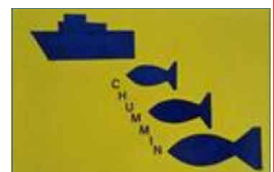


For a unique graduation, wedding, or birthday or special occasion gift, consider our **Adopt a Whale Shark** program. Our researchers have cataloged hundreds of whale sharks, but only sharks that have been seen within the past year are put up for adoption. Guardians are notified as sharks are re-sighted. Tiger sharks that SRI researchers have photographed and cataloged will also be available in the coming months. Lifetime Adoptions never need to be renewed and are \$150. All adoptions include an adoption certificate, a fact sheet on the species of

shark adopted and a photo of your shark. <https://www.sharks.org/support/whale-shark-adoption/>

And please remember to support SRI every time you shop at Amazon.com. Simply go to **AmazonSmile** and choose "Shark Research Institute" as your favorite charity. Although no extra charge is added to your bill, Amazon makes a donation to SRI!

If shark or surf fishing is allowed near swimming or surfing in your area, please ask your municipality to fly warning flags. A variety of flags for various conditions are available at: tagchum@gmail.com

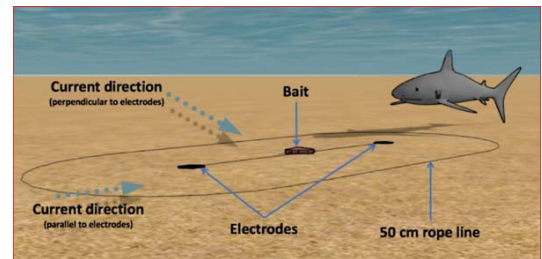


For Field Researchers: Evaluation of Fabrics Minimizing Shark Bite Injuries

Thiele M, Mourier J, Papastamatiou Y, Ballesta L, Chateauminois E, Huveneers C. 2020. **Response of blacktip reef sharks, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, to shark bite mitigation products.** *Sci Rep.* doi: [10.1038/s41598-020-60062-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-60062-x).

Globally, the frequency of shark bites is rising, resulting in an increasing demand for shark deterrents and measures to lessen the impact of shark bites on humans. Most existing shark protection measures are designed to reduce the probability of a bite, but fabrics that minimise injuries when a shark bite occurs can also be used as mitigation devices. Here, we assessed the ability of the Ocean Guardian Scuba7 and Kevlar material to reduce the likelihood of blacktip reef sharks, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, from feeding, and to minimise injuries from shark bites.

Sharks were enticed to consume a small piece of local reef fish (bait) placed between the two Scuba7 electrodes with the deterrents randomly being turned on or kept off. In the second experiment, the bait was attached to a small pouch made of either standard neoprene or neoprene with a protective layer of Kevlar around it. The Scuba7 reduced the proportion of baits being taken by 67%, (from 100% during control trials to 33%). Sharks also took more time to take the bait when the device was active (165 ± 20.40 s vs. 38.9 ± 3.35 s), approached at a greater distance (80.98 ± 1.72 cm vs. 38.88 ± 3.20 cm) and made a greater number of approaches per trial (19.38 ± 2.29 vs. 3.62 ± 0.53) than when the Scuba7 was inactive. The sizes of punctures from shark bites were significantly smaller on neoprene with Kevlar compared to standard neoprene (3.64 ± 0.26 mm vs. 5.88 ± 0.29 mm). The number of punctures was also fewer when Kevlar was used (14.92 ± 3.16 vs. 74.1 ± 12.44). Overall, the Ocean Guardian Scuba7 and Kevlar reduced the impact of blacktip reef shark bites. These findings may help consumers make informed decisions when purchasing shark deterring and protective products.



Interactions Among Reef Sharks

Sabando MA, Rieucan G, Bradley D, Caselle JE, Papastamatiou YP. (2020) **Habitat-specific inter and intraspecific behavioral interactions among reef sharks.** *Oecologia.*

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00442-020-0476-y.pdf>

Behavioral interactions such as dominance are critical components of animal social lives, competitive abilities, and resulting distribution patterns with coexisting species. Strong interference competition can drive habitat separation, but less is known of the role of interference if agonistic interactions are weak. While most theoretical models assume interference abilities to be constant in an environment, few consider that the extent of interference can vary by habitat and change model predictions. Using baited underwater cameras, we show a consistent dominance status between two sympatric reef sharks at an uninhabited Pacific atoll. Blacktip reef shark (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*) and gray reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) relative abundance showed an inverse relationship to each other but the strength of this relationship varied by habitat. Reef shark relative abundance declined more rapidly in the presence of heterospecifics on forereef habitats as opposed to backreefs. In all habitats, gray reef sharks were more likely to bite bait cages than blacktips when both species were present, and appeared to be the dominant species. Intraspecific interactions were also apparent, with individual willingness to bite bait decreasing as the number of conspecifics increased. Gray reef sharks may exert differential control over blacktip foraging success in different habitats. Habitat-specific behavioral interactions may partially explain patterns of spatial separation between competing species where interference is weak.

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- Ripley's Aquarium of Canada
- Ripley's Aquarium of South Carolina
- Mike Rissi
- Lesley Rochat
- The Roddenberry Foundation
- Michael Rodricks
- The Rohauer Collection Foundation
- Rolex Watch USA
- Joe Romeiro
- Roots
- F. Peter Rose
- Wiltraud Salm
- Neil Schartzman
- San Diego Shark Diving
- Dr. Jennifer V. Schmidt
- The Shark Finatics
- Debbie Smith
- Marty Snyderman
- Greg Sparks
- Liz Sparks
- Paul Spielvogel
- Donald Nichols Storch
- Rick Stratton
- Studio 1143
- Surf Expo
- Oakleigh B. Thorne
- Mike Tichenor
- Barbara & Donald Tober Foundation
- Jim Toomey
- Undersea Images
- John Vincenti
- Phil Watson
- The Wave Foundation
- Catherine Wendt
- Wildleaks
- Winston Park K-8 Center
- The Whole Earth Center
- John Yavorksky
- Cristina Zenato