



SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

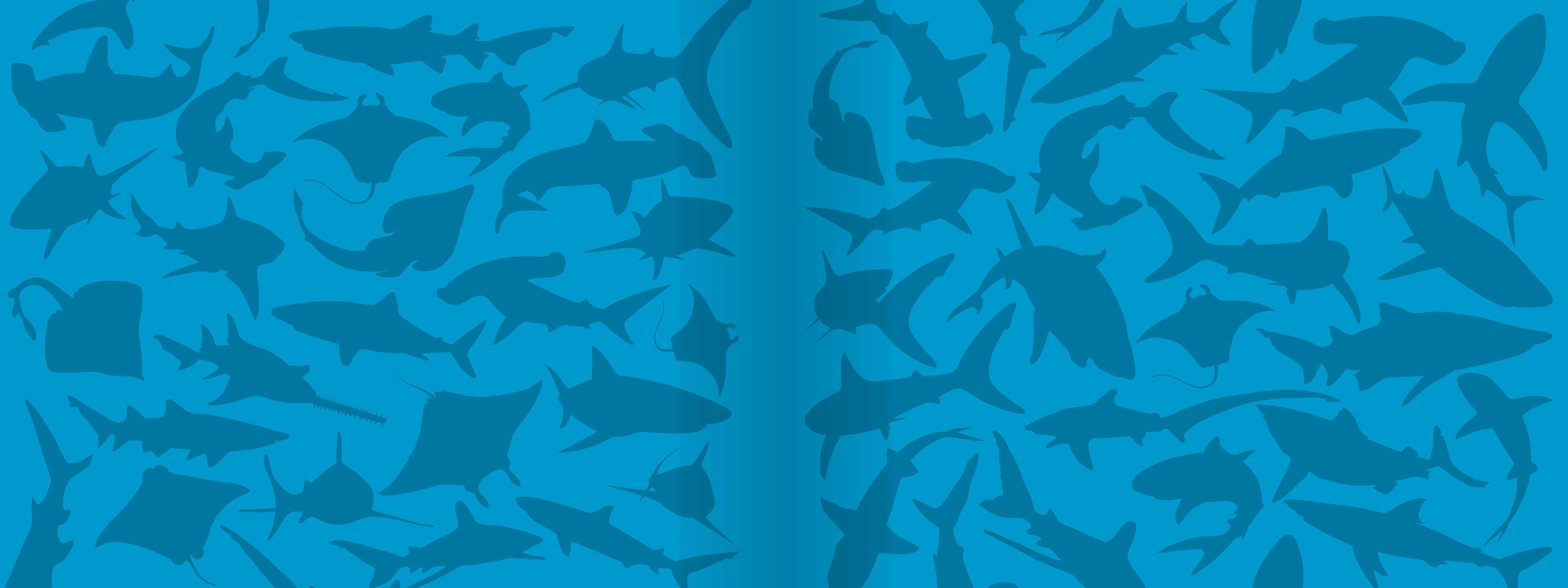
# SHARK EDUCATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Extracted from the Save Our Seas Foundation Annual Report 2023

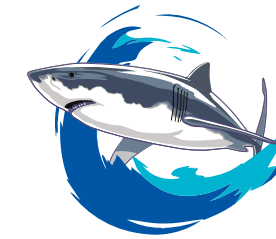


save our seas  
shark education centre





The SOSF Shark Education Centre (SOSF-SEC) building is an immersive experience in itself, as excited young learners arrive for their morning of fun activities and experiential learning.



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CLOVA MABIN

# SOSF SHARK EDUCATION CENTRE

DR CLOVA MABIN

The Save Our Seas Foundation Shark Education Centre (SOSFSEC) aims to foster a love of the ocean, inspiring people to protect it. Historically, South African ocean spaces have been inaccessible to many communities and we attempt to address some of these inequalities by offering our educational programmes to schoolchildren from under-resourced communities.

The SOSFSEC's educational strategy has five key areas of focus: short-term lessons for school or community groups; the distribution of educational resources; longer-term educational programmes; public visits to the centre; and digital communication.

## STAFF

The diversification and growth of our team has enabled us to host larger school groups from more areas in Cape Town (teaching in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa). We employed Afikile Ndude, our first isiXhosa-speaking senior educator, and Antonique Dick as a digital engagement and science communication officer.

Right, above: Hands-on is the way kids are encouraged to learn, with gentle guidance as a morning's school visit unfolds.

Right, below: The Marine Explorers programme facilitates safe and fun ocean experiences.

Opposite: The protected shores of Dalebrook beach and its rocky intertidal zone, located right opposite the SOSF-SEC, are a young explorer's paradise.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

We hosted 171 groups comprising 5,873 learners, delivered 481 hours of environmental programming for our longer-term programmes and fed 3,702 individuals as part of our short- and long-term programmes.

Twenty-three learners (17 males and six females) participated in the 10-week snorkelling Marine Explorer programme. A Marine Explorer camp was held in January for the 2021 and 2022 cohort (30 participants) and in October for the 2023 cohort (18 participants).

Nineteen Grade 5 St James RC Primary School learners joined our second Sea School programme.

We guided 1,383 visitors (737 adults and 646 children) over 371 public tour groups. Four graduate interns from Shark Spotters and a Cape Peninsula University of Technology student joined our two-day training programme for guides to cope with increased visitor numbers during the festive season.

We collaborated with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and TRAFFIC to teach three days of shark workshops for fishery compliance officers to 65 participants.

### FACILITY

Renovations of the facility continued and we doubled the size of our shore classroom, which enables us to host larger groups more comfortably and creates space for station-based learning. We moved the kitchen to the other side of the building and added staff bathrooms upstairs to cater for our expanding team.

### BUILDING VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

After the relaunch of our website this year, all our educational resources are now available for download free of charge, including our printable resources and our shark animations created with Digital Life. We also launched a livestream link so that website users can check out the conditions on the rocky shore, at the Dalebrook tidal pool or at the local surf break, and this represents most of our website traffic.



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over 371 public tour groups.*

### CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Team members attended the Marine and Coastal Educators Network (MCEN) national conference, the Western Cape Environmental Education Forum (WCEEF) and the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA). Justine, Logan and Wade presented at the Wavescapes Slide Night and four of our team attended the biennial Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium (SASRS) in Durban.

We collaborated with Curb Beach Plastic for the International Coastal Clean-up and sponsored transport for 60 Ocean View children to attend at the beach closest to their homes.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Strategy development and implementation are our focus in 2024. By setting specific strategic goals, we can meet the needs of our target audience while delivering a high-quality educational experience to contribute to a healthier marine environment. Assessment of our impact is a priority and to this end we are developing a monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy. We aim to expand our Marine Explorer programme to last 15 weeks and increase the focus on science and conservation. We hope to encourage more girls to join the programme and are looking at ways of addressing the current gender ratio.

## **CREDITS**

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### Photo credits:

SOSF Shark Education Centre | Antonique Dick: cover, ii, 3.

SOSF Shark Education Centre | Logan Benjamin: p. 2 (top).

SOSF Shark Education Centre | Wade Naude: p. 2 (bottom).





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