



Save Our Seas Shark Centre  
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SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

# SHARK EDUCATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Extracted from the Save Our Seas Foundation Annual Report 2011



save our seas  
shark education centre







# SAVE OUR SEAS SHARK CENTRE, KALK BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

The Shark Centre is manned by a small but dedicated and enthusiastic staff, working as a closely knit team to ensure the smooth running and development of the Centre.

The main objective of the Shark Centre is to spread awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy and well-balanced oceans through education and research, with particular emphasis on sharks as top predators. Information about sharks and local marine life is continuously updated and expanded for the benefit of visitors.

## Research

Research plays an important role in the Shark Centre. Save Our Seas funded project leader Alison Kock and Master's student Adrian Hewitt frequently cruised the waters of False Bay around Seal Island on the lookout for white sharks.

## Education

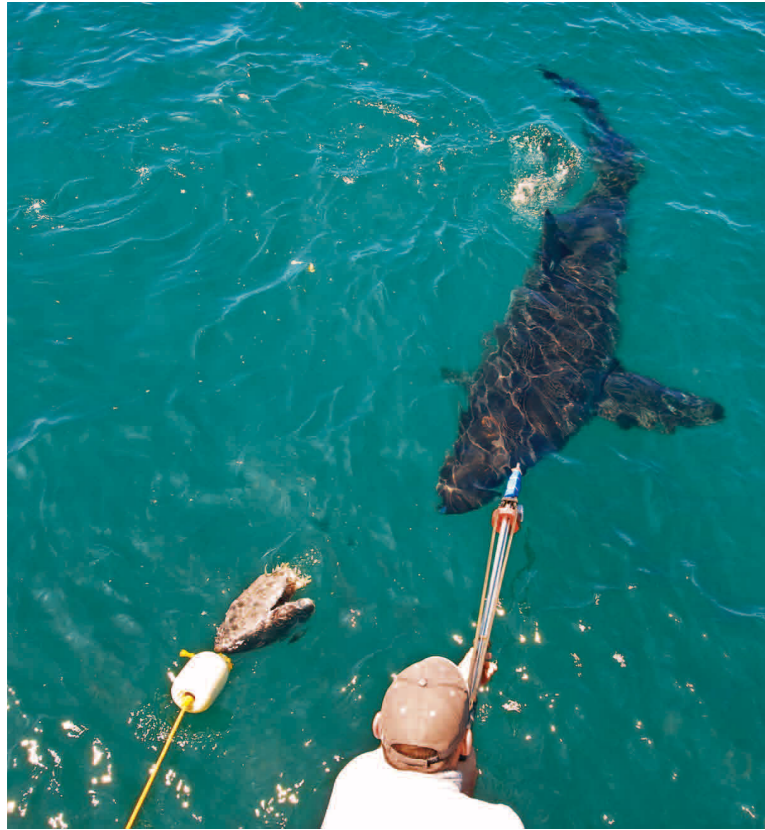
The Save Our Seas Shark Centre educational programs focus not only on sharks, but also on other aspects of the marine environment.

The Centre's staff work with school parties, university students, teachers and other interested groups.

While the educational programs on offer aim to build a better understanding of the marine environment amongst participants, the Save Our Seas Shark Centre staff acknowledge that their role involves more than providing knowledge and teaching skills. Most of the activities are also designed for the purpose of providing a memorable, hands-on experience of a marine environment. This is particularly important to us, because although Cape Town is a coastal city, the reality is that most local children have very few opportunities to experience its magnificent coastline. Young people engage best with "Save Our Seas" when they feel that the seas are "ours". When we learn about an environment while having a positive experience in that environment, not only are







we likely to learn more, but we are also far more likely to retain that knowledge together with an appreciation of the environment that we have experienced.

So with this in mind, in addition to offering lectures and information on sharks, the staff at the Centre spend a lot of time exploring and learning about the rocky shores opposite the Centre and around the Cape Peninsula. These lessons can be introductory or they can have a specific theme, such as food webs, ad-

aptations or data collection and handling. We are currently developing a three-day program which will be run at marine camps held in some of the most spectacular parts of the Cape coast. The Shark Centre also organizes regular children's holiday clubs which are increasing in popularity.

**Communication and Awareness**

The Save Our Seas Shark Centre regularly hosts and takes part in public events such as scientific lectures, expositions and beach

cleanups. This is done primarily with public awareness in mind, and often opens doors to other networks.

Participation in various expositions and festivals gives the Centre a platform via which to spread awareness of the plight of sharks and the damaging affect their loss has on sustaining healthy and well-balanced oceans.

**The ongoing generosity of the Save Our Seas Foundation allows the Shark Centre to continue introducing its programs to people of all backgrounds, thereby increasing their knowledge and appreciation of the marine world.**





**CREDITS**

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