



SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

# SHARK EDUCATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Extracted from the Save Our Seas Foundation Annual Report 2012



save our seas  
shark education centre



# SAVE OUR SEAS SHARK CENTRE

KALK BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

The primary objective of the Save Our Seas Shark Centre is to encourage the conservation and awareness of sharks and marine life in the False Bay area of South Africa. The Shark Centre achieves this aim through dedicated educational programs and by supporting research projects and awareness raising initiatives with a particular focus on sharks as apex predators.

## Research

The Save Our Seas Shark Centre is advocating several researchers in the development, running and expansion of new research projects on sharks and other endangered marine species and habitats, including projects funded by Save Our Seas.

Lauren De Vos is using Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS) in her research project to survey fish and sharks across all habitats in False Bay; Tamzyn Zweig's research aims to provide an up-to-date quantification of organized recreational elasmobranch fishing for better co-management of recreational and commercial fisheries in South Africa; and Meaghan McCord is investigating habitat usage by the Zambezi (bull) shark which was recently discovered living in the Southern Cape region of South Africa.

## Education

A primary focus of the Save Our Seas Shark Centre is delivering educational and awareness raising programs to schools, social outreach initiatives and other interested groups in and around Cape Town.

The Shark Centre staff go beyond providing knowledge and new skills; they facilitate memorable and hands-on interactions with the marine environment. This is particularly important in the coastal city of Cape Town, where the vast majority of potential learners are often not given the opportunity to interact with marine environments or to explore their beauty.

The Centre offers lectures and interactive rock-pool outings to school groups and social outreach initiatives throughout the year. It also organizes an annual Marine Awareness Holiday Camp and hosts popular and activity-filled chil-

dren's holiday clubs in collaboration with other organizations.

Their engagement with the public at relevant environmental events is strong - providing educational talks on sharks, marine ecology and conservation.

## Communication and Awareness

The Save Our Seas Shark Centre opens its doors to the public 7 days a week, offering visitors the opportunity to see small sharks and marine life in the aquarium, view marine documentaries and to get further general information on sharks and research.

The center staff and Save Our Seas Sponsored Scientists researchers regularly participate in environmental events including scientific lectures, exhibitions as well as beach and wetland cleanups.



Furthermore, the Shark Centre hosts the Marine Conservation Speaker Series where influential local and international speakers and researchers share their knowledge and passion for sharks and marine conservation with the public.

By partnering up with other environmental and conservation organizations, festivals and events, the Shark Centre aims to raise shark and marine ecosystem awareness and to engage the public in shark myths and misconceptions, by highlighting their importance to the health of our oceans.

Using social media channels and a new electronic monthly newsletter, the Shark Centre actively connects with people and organizations, sharing information and news on upcoming events, research activities and educational initiatives.

By the end of 2012 The Centre has reached approximately 5,000 kids with its educational programme, kids holiday club, marine awareness camp and several expos.



## **CREDITS**

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