

# the **ReSharker**

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS • SEPTEMBER 2023

# EDITOR'S NOTE



Dearest ReShark partners,

As you would've seen by now, tons of exciting things have been happening with ReShark and we've only just found time to breathe and take stock (and pride) of our journey thus far!

We wish to keep you (our growing network of nearly 100 partner organizations) abreast of the latest ReShark happenings — from news features and scientific publications to updates from the field. And so, welcome to the very first edition of *The ReSharker*!

This is our first stab at an internal communications newsletter, and we will endeavor to put this out every quarter moving forward.

We'd really love for this newsletter to be collaborative, and thus invite you to send over details and media of any **conference presentations and publications, media features and special events** related to ReShark or the StAR Project to [nathaniel@thriveconservation.org](mailto:nathaniel@thriveconservation.org) for us to include in future additions.

Kindly note that ReShark has usage rights for a wide variety of photo and video assets, which official partners are free to use for non-commercial purposes after filling in a simple usage agreement on our [website](#). If you are interested in using ReShark assets for commercial use, kindly contact [media@reshark.org](mailto:media@reshark.org).

As we go along, feel free to share with me directly any comments or suggestions to improve *The ReSharker*. I would love to hear from you. Enjoy!

Best wishes,

Nathaniel Soon  
Media and Communications Coordinator  
Thrive Conservation & ReShark

# KEY MILESTONES

ReShark was first conceptualized in 2019 by a coalition of international partners with the aim of recovering threatened shark and ray species worldwide.

The StAR Project (*Stegostoma tigrinum* augmentation and recovery) emerged as our pioneering initiative. Through conservation translocation, zebra sharks were bred and released in the waters of Raja Ampat in hopes of re-establishing local populations which have witnessed rapid decline.

This is only the beginning for ReShark. Here's a look-back at our journey thus far — from initial idea to a successful proof of concept:

3-4 Dec 2019  
Zebra shark translocation workshop hosted by Georgia Aquarium



Feb 2020  
StAR Project launched

Dec 2020 - Apr 2021  
Population viability analysis virtual workshop by Kathy Taylor-Holzer (IUCN CPSG) for Raja Ampat zebra sharks; final PVA published in May 2021

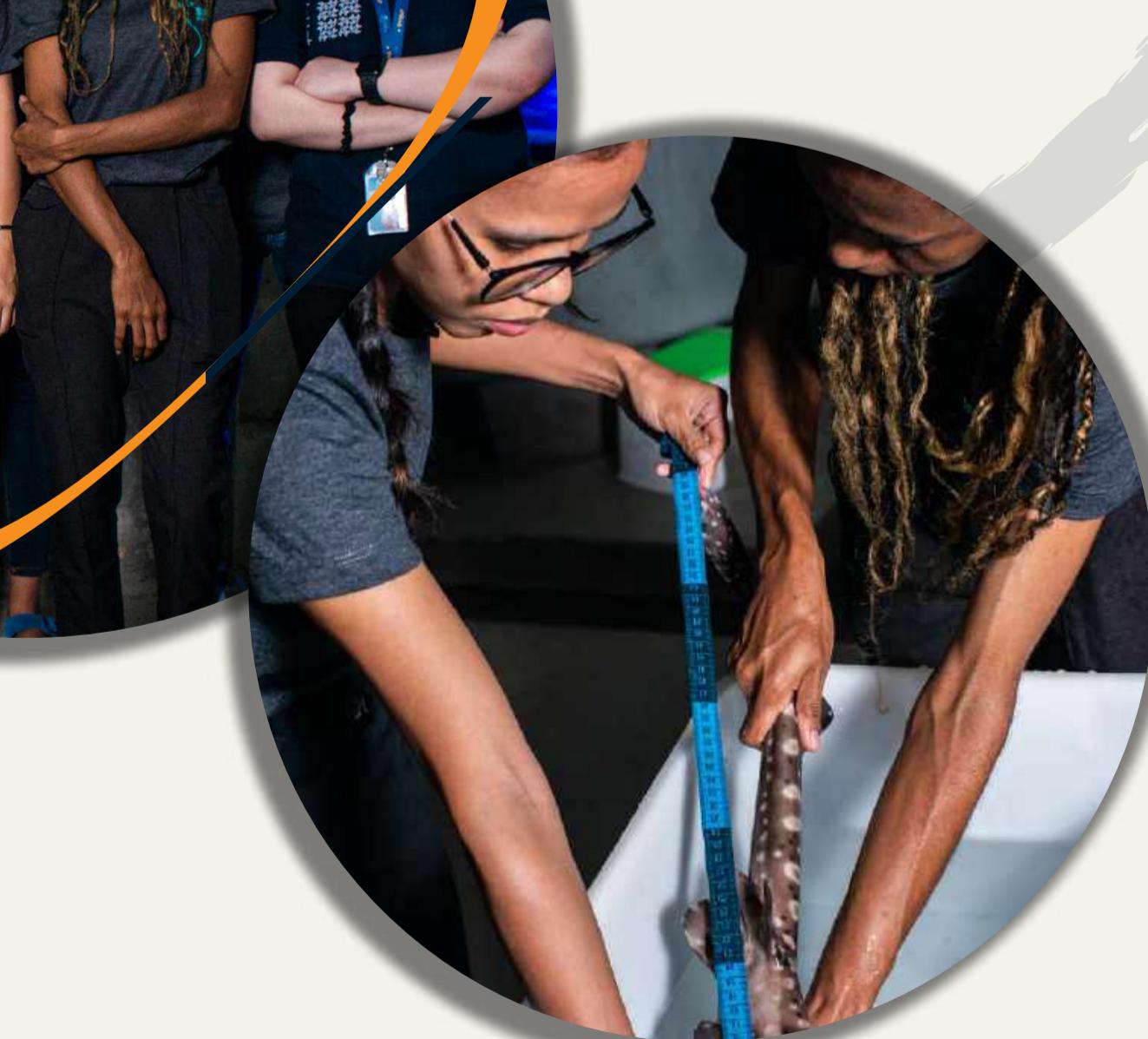


27 May 2021  
High-level meeting in Jakarta with ministerial commitment to support the StAR Project

22 Apr 2022  
Official decree of the StAR Project Indonesia Working Group formation by the West Papua Provincial Government



27 Jul 2022  
Construction of RARCC nursery completed and commissioned by Tim Carpenter (Seattle Aquarium)



Mar - Apr 2022  
Month-long training of first cohort of four shark aquarists by and at the Jakarta Aquarium and Safari



5 Aug 2022

First shipment of 7 eggs from SEA LiFE Sydney Aquarium arrives in Raja Ampat's RARCC hatchery; 5 of which are fertile eggs



29 Jul 2022

Egg import permit issued by Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries



29 - 30 Nov 2022

West Papua Provincial Government launch event



Nov - Dec 2022

Second egg shipment from SEA LiFE Sydney Aquarium and Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay arrives at Misool Foundation nursery



15 Dec 2022

Acoustic tagging of Audrey, Charlie and Kathlyn at RARCC nursery

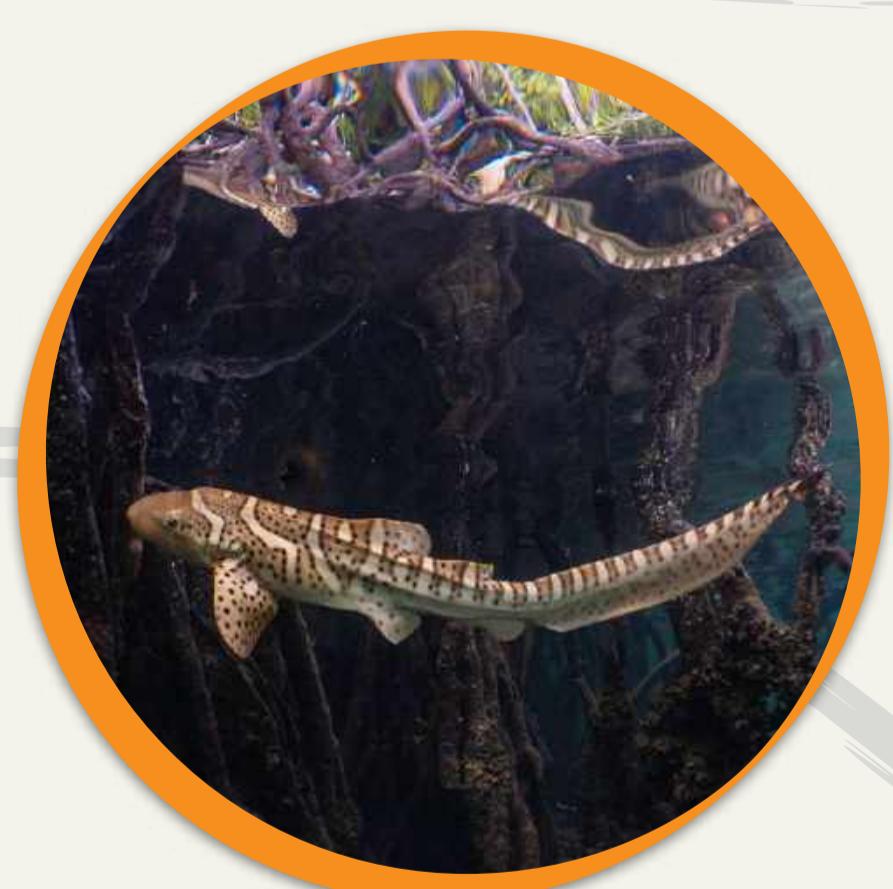


17 Jan 2023

Mali (29cm TL) hatches in Misool Foundation nursery

31 Jan 2023

Shannon (27.3cm TL) hatches; dies on 31 Mar, determined to be parthenote



20 May 2023  
Acoustic tagging of Mali



3 Feb 2023

Audrey (81.4cm TL) released into Wayag Lagoon

28 Feb 2023

Misool Foundation sea pen constructed

8 Apr 2023  
Mali moved to sea pen at Misool

9 Jul 2023  
Mali (79cm TL) released at Misool

31 Jul - 4 Aug 2023  
ReShark retreat in Seattle

Sep - Oct 2022

On-the-job training for shark aquarists by Laura Simmons (SEA LiFE Sydney Aquarium), Leah Neal (Georgia Aquarium), Jack Jewell (Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay) and Lise Watson (Shedd Aquarium)

15 Sep 2022

Construction of Misool Foundation nursery completed

17 Sep 2022

Kathlyn (31cm TL) and Audrey (30.5cm TL) hatch at RARCC nursery

25 Sep 2022

Charlie (30cm TL) hatches at RARCC nursery

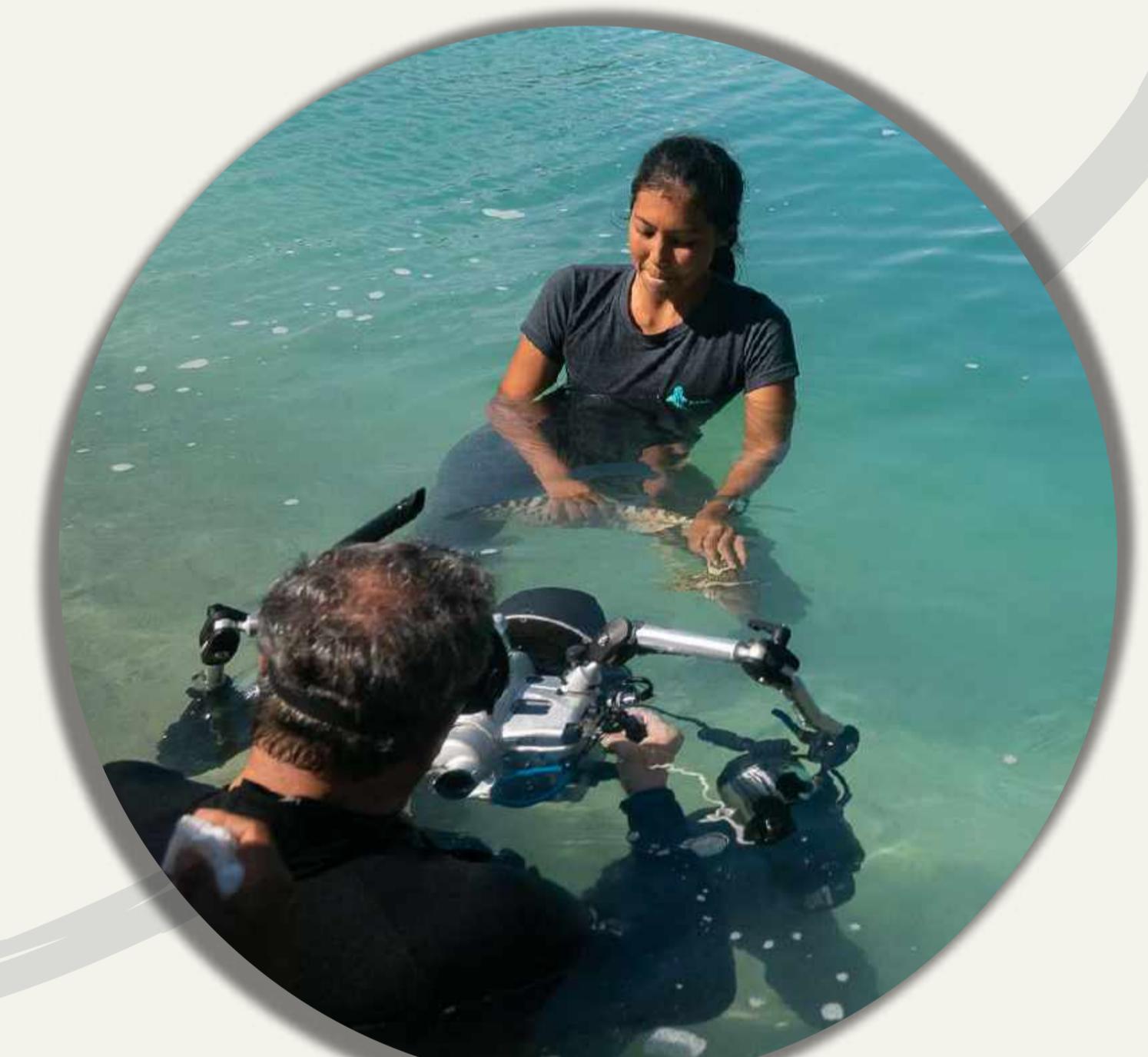
28 Dec 2022

RARCC sea pen constructed; Kathlyn and Charlie moved to sea pen



15 Dec 2022

Acoustic tagging of Audrey, Charlie and Kathlyn at RARCC nursery



13 Jan 2023

First releases: Kathlyn (81cm TL) and Charlie (73.2cm TL) released into Wayag Lagoon



3 Feb 2023

Audrey (81.4cm TL) released into Wayag Lagoon

28 Feb 2023

Misool Foundation sea pen constructed

8 Apr 2023  
Mali moved to sea pen at Misool

9 Jul 2023  
Mali (79cm TL) released at Misool

31 Jul - 4 Aug 2023  
ReShark retreat in Seattle

# CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Research and science communications form the backbone of our work with ReShark, the StAR Project and future initiatives. Here's a roundup of recent conference presentations given by our team related to our work:

Erdmann, M.

**Restoring leopards to coral reefs? A true story of marine rewilding in the coral triangle**

5th Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium • Singapore • Jun 2023

Hadfield, C.

**ReShark: Restoring zebra sharks in Indonesia through *ex situ* and *in situ* rearing**

2023 International Aquatic Animal Medicine Conference • Utah, USA • May 2023

Meyer, E.

**Co-creating a global initiative to ReShark the ocean**

Goalmakers National Conference • Seattle, WA, USA • Dec 2023

Dove, A., et al.

**The StAR Project: A highly collaborative model for *ex situ* shark conservation**

11th International Aquarium Congress • Boulogne-sur-Mer, France • Nov 2022

Erdmann, M.

**Rewilding threatened shark species: the StAR leopard shark recovery project as a case study in conservation translocations**

Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation Annual Meeting • Monterey, CA, USA • Nov 2022

Meyer, E., et al.

**Recovering threatened elasmobranchs through *ex situ* breeding and *in situ* release**

77th WAZA Annual Conference • Tenerife, Spain • Oct 2022

Hoopes, L., et al.

***Ex situ* breeding programs as a conservation tool for imperiled sharks and rays**

Sharks International 2022 Conference • Valencia, Spain • Oct 2022

Meyer, E., et al.

**ReShark: an international, collective effort to recover threatened sharks and rays around the world**

Sharks International 2022 Conference • Virtual • Oct 2022

Hoopes, L., et al.

**A novel conservation strategy for elasmobranch population reinforcement: The StAR Project**

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists • Phoenix, AZ, USA • Jul 2021



# PUBLICATIONS & DATA

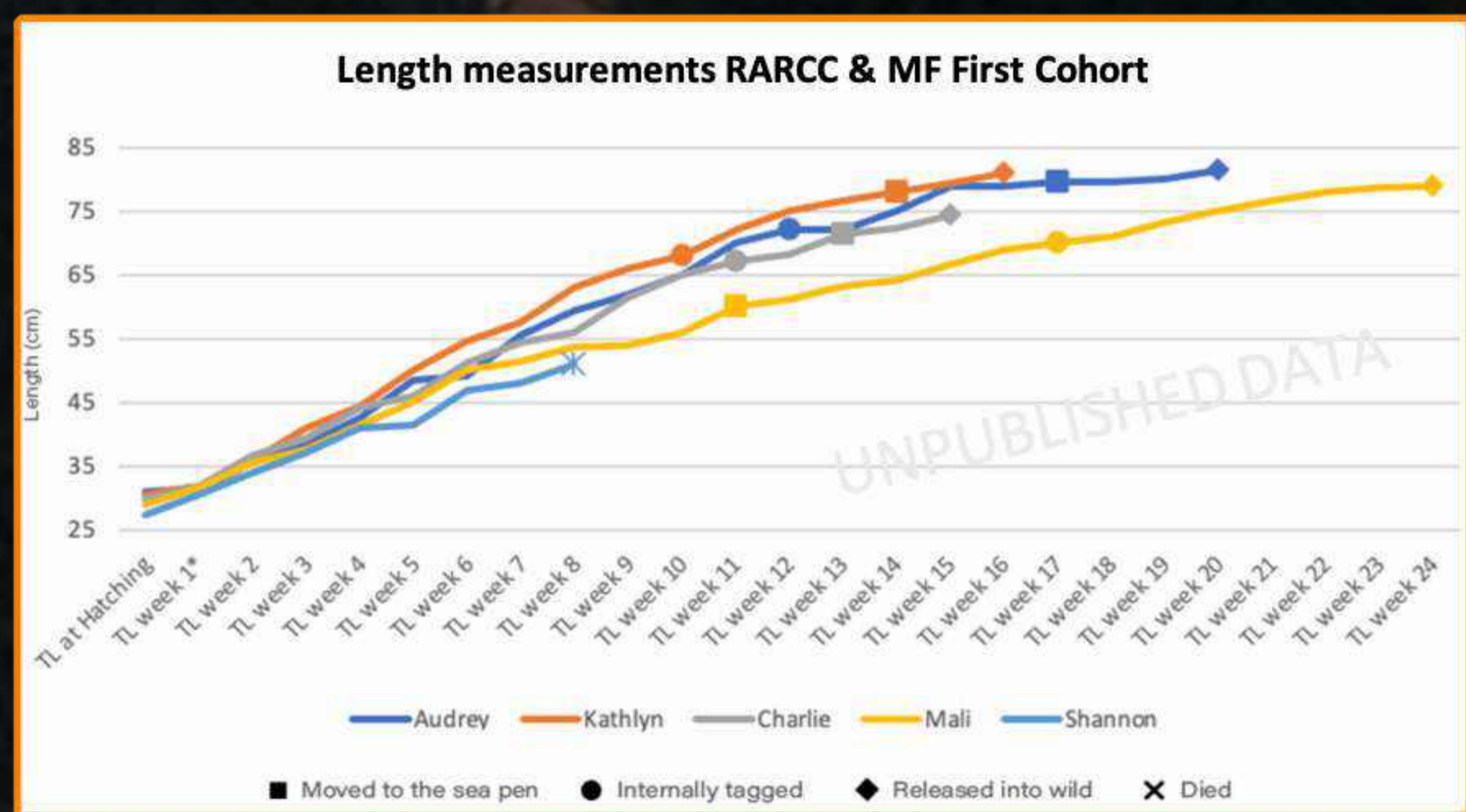
Scientific publications are essential in raising awareness of our work and impact. The StAR Project was brought up in the closing remarks of Larson *et al.* (2021) as a model of innovation and interdisciplinarity in shark conservation:

Here are two graphs showing the early development of the StAR Project's pioneer cohort of 5 pups raised in Raja Ampat. The pups were predominantly fed with live snails and occasionally augmented with fresh squid, prawn and fish. We are pleased with the growth rates achieved!

Larson, S., et al. (2021)

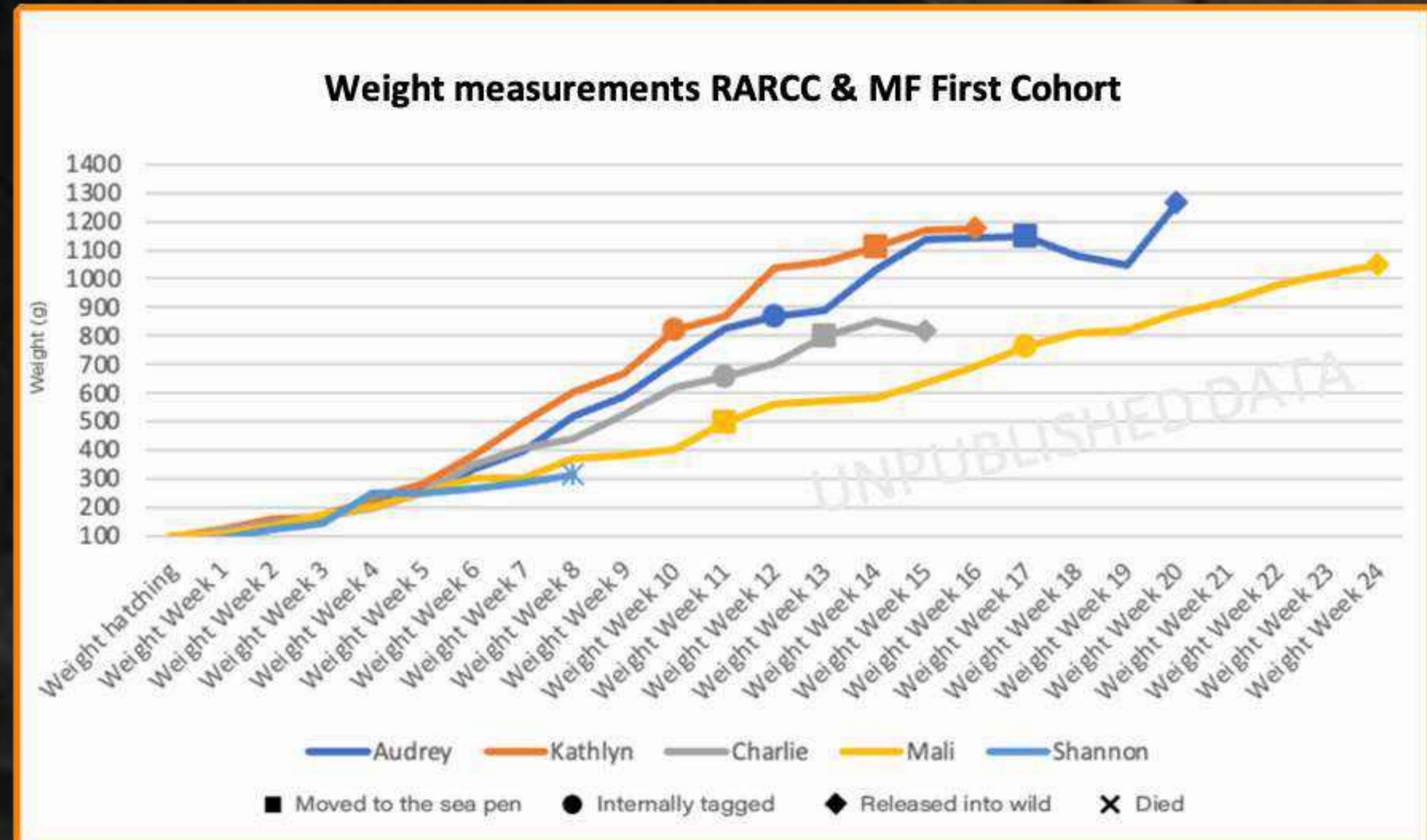
Current and future considerations for shark conservation in the Northeast and Eastern Central Pacific Ocean

Advances in Marine Biology, 90: 1-49



**FIG. 1**

Total length (cm) of first cohort of zebra shark pups at RARCC and Misool Foundation nurseries from birth to release



**FIG. 2**

Weight (g) of first cohort of zebra shark pups at RARCC and Misool Foundation nurseries from birth to release

# MAJOR FEATURE STORIES



July 2023

**A WILD PLAN** • National Geographic

Photographer-duo David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes captured the historic release of Charlie and Kathlyn into the waters of the Wayag Lagoon. This marked a global first for shark rewilding and a successful proof of concept for the StAR Project and ReShark.

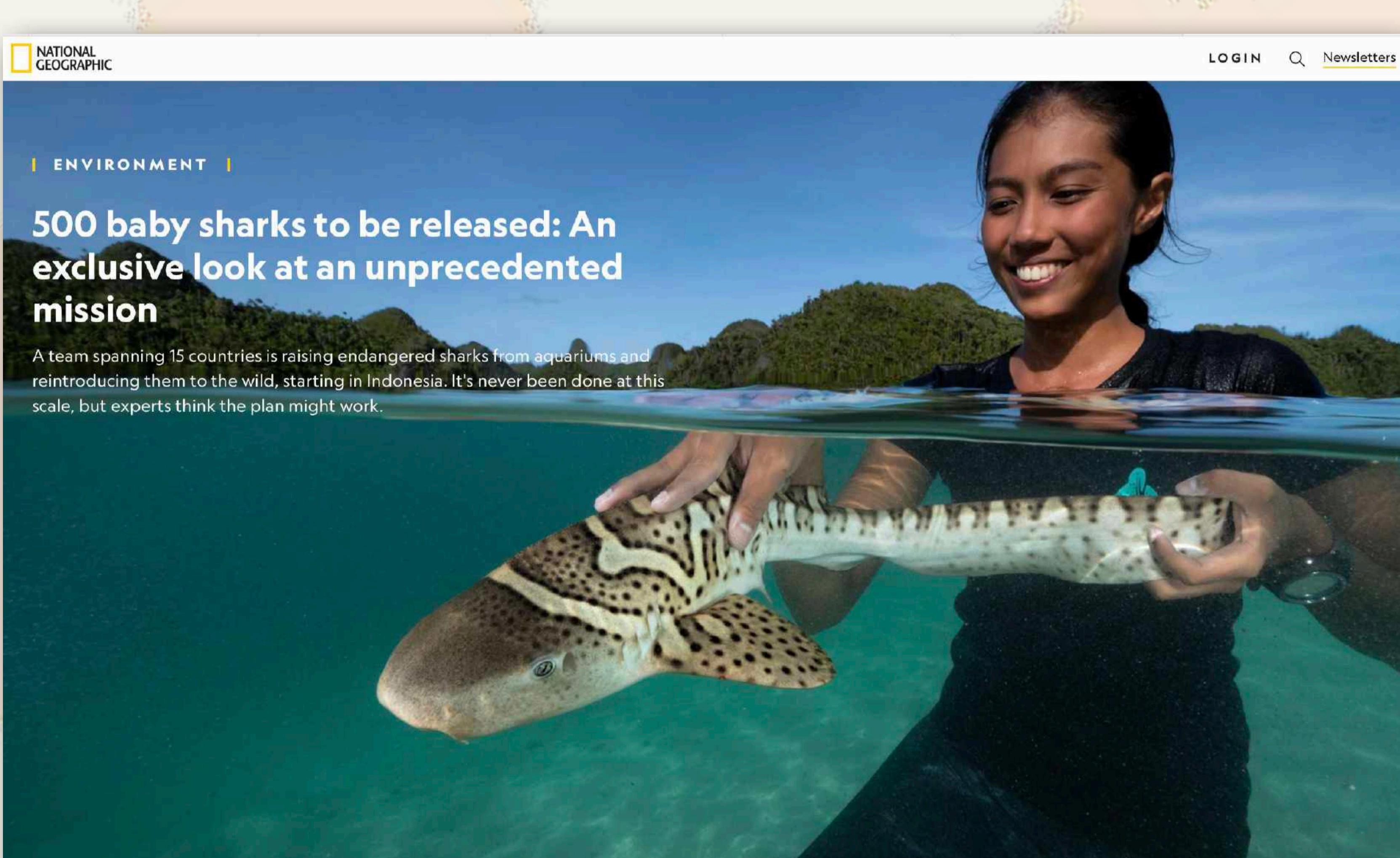


July 2023

**Pelepasliaran Hiu** •

National Geographic Indonesia

Cover feature for National Geographic Indonesia's July edition.



16 Mar 2023

**500 baby sharks to be released: An exclusive look at an unprecedented mission** •  
National Geographic (Online)

# NEWS & MAGAZINE COVERAGE

## ENGLISH

ReShark project: Rebuilding shark populations by releasing 500 baby sharks in Raja Ampat, Indonesia

9 Apr 2023 • Changemakr Asia

Reviving shark populations: ReShark leads the way with international collaboration

3 Apr 2023 • Voyage New York

Seattle Aquarium helps reintroduce baby zebra sharks into ocean

30 Mar 2023 • KOMO News

500 baby zebra sharks to be released in Indonesia for biodiversity

21 Mar 2023 • Al Mayadeen

Endangered zebra sharks to be released back into oceans in first-ever international 're-wilding' effort

20 Mar 2023 • Fox News

See first baby shark of hundreds released in bid to save endangered species

20 Mar 2023 • Newsweek

World's first major science-backed shark reintroduction a success

16 Mar 2023 • Forbes

500 baby zebra sharks to be reintroduced to wild

16 Mar 2023 • ABC News

'Rewilding' sharks into the ocean

16 Mar 2023 • Good Morning America

Call to Earth Day 2022: A global mission to protect our oceans

3 Nov 2022 • CNN

Make the oceans great again

22 Oct 2022 • Weekendavisen

Good news from Raja Ampat: Two eggs of zebra shark (*Stegostoma tigrinum*) have successfully hatched

21 Sep 2022 • The Editor

West Papua government partners with global initiative restore zebra sharks in Raja Ampat

19 Aug 2022 • The Editor

Raising baby sharks from the dead

5 Oct 2021 • Hakai Magazine

Is it time to begin rewilding the seas?

4 Jul 2021 • The Guardian

Aquariums hatch unusual plan to save endangered zebra shark

17 Feb 2021 • Science

## BAHASA INDONESIA

Proyek StAR di Raja Ampat, Aksi Nyata Konservasi Hiu Belimbing di Indo Pasifik

28 Jan 2023 • Asia Today

Pertama di Dunia, Proyek StAR Berencana Pulihkan Kembali Hiu Belimbing di Raja Ampat

5 Dec 2022 • Suaramandiri

Pertama di Dunia, Proyek StAR Jadi Jurus Mitigasi Kepunahan Hiu Belimbing di Raja Ampat

1 Dec 2022 • Liputan6

Pemprov Papua Barat Gandeng Mitra Global Pulihkan Populasi Hiu Belimbing di Raja Ampat

29 Aug 2022 • Media Indonesia

## Brida Papua Barat Datangkan 7 Telur Hiu Belimbing ke Raja Ampat

22 Aug 2022 • Papua Barat News

## Momen Bersejarah, Begini Proses Pengiriman Telur Hiu Belimbing dari Australia ke Papua Barat

20 Aug 2022 • Tribun Papua Barat

## BRIDA Papua Barat pemulihian hiu belimbing di Raja Ampat

20 Aug 2022 • Jubi

## Pemerintah Provinsi Papua Barat Bermitra Dalam Inisiatif Global Pemulihan Populasi Hiu Belimbing di Raja Ampat

19 Aug 2022 • Siaran Indonesia

## Pemprov Papua Barat Selamatkan Populasi Hiu Belimbing Melalui Proyek StAR

30 May 2021 • Oridek News

## Selamatkan Populasi Hiu Belimbing, Pemda Papua Barat Dukung Proyek StAR

30 May 2021 • Kabar Papua

## Papua Barat Kejar Implementasi Proyek Konservasi StAR

29 May 2021 • Papua Kini

## Lindungi Spezies Langka Di Papua Barat, Gubernur Gandeng Stekholder Nasional

29 May 2021 • Arfaknews





EARNED MEDIA

# PARTNER BLOGS

[ReShark and StAR: Looks to the future at Seattle retreat by Maurine Shimlock](#)

25 Aug 2023 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[How an extraordinary new effort is giving sharks “a fighting chance” by Mary Kate McCoy](#)

25 Jul 2023 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[How an extraordinary new effort is giving sharks ‘a fighting chance’](#)

24 Jul 2023 • Conservation International

[ReShark/StAR update featuring “Mali”: A multifaceted trip part 2 by Burt Jones](#)

3 Jul 2023 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[National Geographic captures a milestone in our work to “ReShark” the ocean](#)

20 Mar 2023 • Seattle Aquarium

[Uncaging zebras of the reef by Made Abiyoga Udaya](#)

17 Mar 2023 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[StAR Project update, part 4 by Made Abiyoga Udaya](#)

7 Mar 2023 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[World first endangered shark rewilding program launches in Indonesia](#)

11 Dec 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[Program Restocking Hiu Terancam Punah Pertama di Dunia, Diluncurkan di Indonesia](#)

10 Dec 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[Program Restocking Hiu Terancam Punah Pertama di Dunia, Diluncurkan di Indonesia](#)

30 Nov 2022 • Konservasi Indonesia

[“ReSharking” the ocean: Five lessons learned](#)

11 Oct 2022 • Seattle Aquarium

[Introducing ReShark](#)

15 Sep 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[West Papua government partners with global initiative to restore zebra sharks in Raja Ampat](#)

25 Aug 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[StAR updates re-wilding the zebra shark, part 3](#)

2 Aug 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[StAR Project: Reintroducing zebra sharks to the BHS by Maurine Shimlock with project updates by Dr. Mark Erdmann](#)

10 Feb 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[Re-wilding a charismatic shark species in the Bird's Head Seascapes: Zebra sharks to be hatched in Raja Ampat by Maurine Shimlock](#)

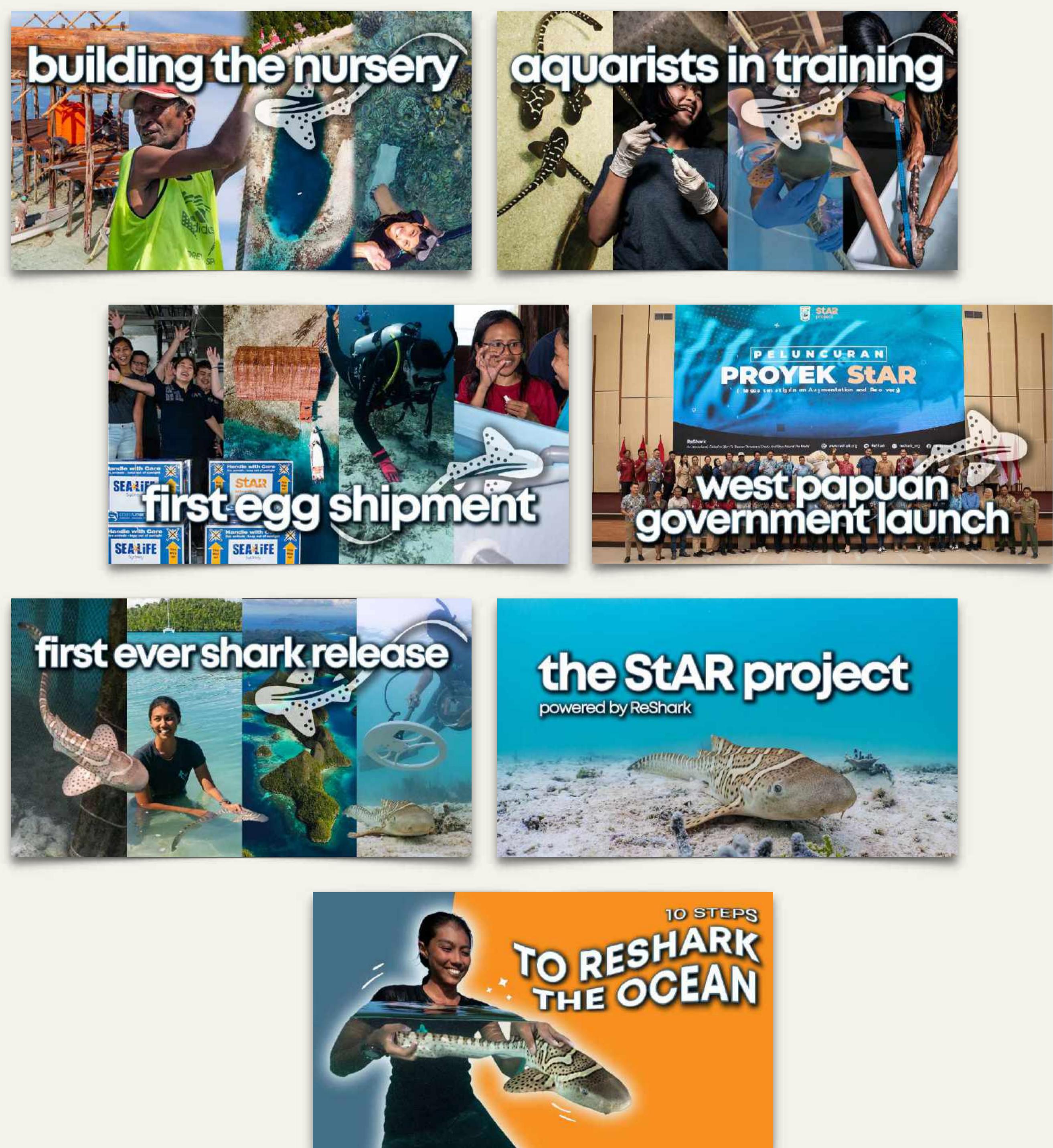
15 Sep 2022 • Bird's Head Seascapes

[A bold approach to zebra shark conservation](#)

18 Nov 2020 • Association of Zoos & Aquariums

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the latest happenings on our website and social media. Be sure to tag us (@resharkorg) when featuring ReShark or the StAR Project. We would love to cross-post content to engage a wider audience and raise awareness of the work we do.



# VIDEOS

Filmed and produced in collaboration with Indo-Pacific Films, this series of videos (available on YouTube) captures the journey of the StAR Project and our major milestones along the way, including the construction of the nurseries in Raja Ampat, the training of our aquarists, initial shipments of eggs and hatchlings, acoustic tagging and finally the releases and post-release monitoring efforts.

COMMUNITY

# RESHARK COUNCIL



2023 - PRESENT

**Abraham Sianipar**  
Konservasi Indonesia



2023 - PRESENT

**Dr. Erin Meyer**  
Seattle Aquarium



2023 - PRESENT

**Hap Fatzinger**  
AZA SAFE & North Carolina  
Aquarium at Fort Fisher



2023 - PRESENT

**Dr. Lisa Hoopes**  
Georgia Aquarium



2023 - PRESENT

**Dr. Mark Erdmann**  
Conservation International



2023 - PRESENT

**Dr. Rima Jabado**  
IUCN Species Survival  
Commission & SSC Shark  
Specialist Group



2020 - PRESENT

**Dr. Erin Meyer**  
Seattle Aquarium  
Co-Chair



2020 - PRESENT

**Nesha Ichida**  
Thrive Conservation  
Co-Chair



2020 - PRESENT

**Abraham Sianipar**  
Konservasi Indonesia



2020 - PRESENT

**Dr. Alistair Dove**  
Georgia Aquarium



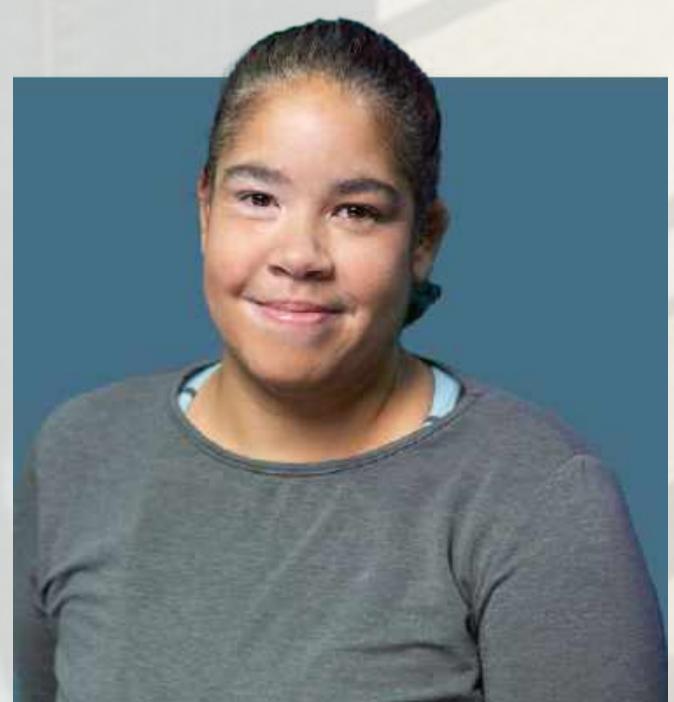
2023 - PRESENT

**Dr. Caitlin Hadfield**  
Seattle Aquarium  
Chair, Veterinary WG



2020 - PRESENT

**Dr. Christine Dudgeon**  
University of the Sunshine Coast  
Co-Chair, Research WG



2023 - PRESENT

**Leah Neal**  
Georgia Aquarium  
Co-Chair, Husbandry WG



2020 - PRESENT

**Dr. Mark Erdmann**  
Conservation International



2020 - PRESENT

**Mochamad Iqbal Herwata**  
Konservasi Indonesia

COMMUNITY

# AQUARIST TEAM

Our local aquarists are our hands and ears on the ground, working round-the-clock to care for the shark pups. On 17 January 2023, Kyra managed to capture Mali's birth - our first hatching ever caught on tape!

**Agi Zalma**  
Misool Foundation  
Shark Aquarist  
2023 - PRESENT



**Shannon Latumahina**  
RARCC Shark Aquarist  
2022 - PRESENT



**Kyra Bestari Wicaksono**  
Misool Foundation  
Shark Aquarist  
2022 - PRESENT



**Maryrose Tapilatu**  
RARCC Shark Aquarist  
2022 - PRESENT

**Julia Tapilatu**  
RARCC Shark Aquarist  
2022 - 2023



**Dolly Tahalele**  
RARCC Shark Aquarist  
2022 - PRESENT

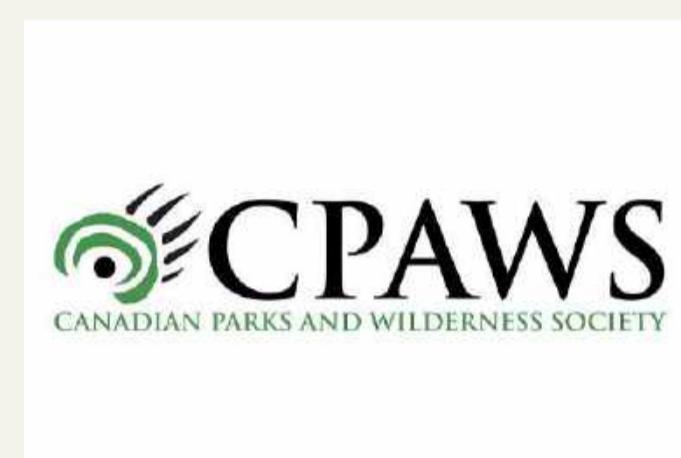
**Orpa Balale**  
RARCC Shark Aquarist  
2022

**Dady Alqadri**  
Misool Foundation  
Shark Aquarist  
2022

COMMUNITY

# RESHARK FOUNDERS

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS



CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



COMMUNITY

# StAR PROJECT FOUNDERS

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS  
&  
AQUARIUMS

BLUD UPTD Pengelolaan  
Kawasan Konservasi Perairan  
Kepulauan Raja Ampat



BRIN  
BANDAR RISET  
DAN INOVASI NASIONAL

COLUMBUS  
ZOO  
AND AQUARIUM

CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



XG  
GEORGIA  
AQUARIUM

CONSERVATION  
PLANNING  
SPECIALIST GROUP  
*Changing the Future for Wildlife*

MINISTRY OF  
MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



KONSERVASI  
INDONESIA

misool  
foundation

New England  
AQUARIUM

NORTH CAROLINA  
AQUARIUM  
Fort Fisher

SEZARC

RAJA AMPAT  
RESEARCH &  
CONSERVATION  
CENTRE

SEATTLE AQUARIUM

SHARK REEF  
AQUARIUM  
at mandalay bay

Shedd  
AQUARIUM



THE  
DALLAS  
WORLD  
AQUARIUM

THRIVE  
CONSERVATION

University of the  
Sunshine Coast  
Australia

VIRGINIA  
AQUARIUM  
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER



COMMUNITY

# OUR PARTNERS

Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium  
Andrew Wicklund Design  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
AZA Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE)  
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium  
Conservation International  
Discovery Cove  
Field Museum  
Georgia Aquarium  
Golden Nugget  
IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group  
Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National  
Museum and Aquarium  
Kansas City Zoo  
Loveland Living Planet Aquarium  
Loyola University  
Minnesota Zoo  
Mote Marine Laboratory  
National Aquarium  
New England Aquarium  
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group  
Ripley's Aquarium of Canada

OdySea Aquarium  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium  
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium  
Re:wild  
Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach  
SEA LiFE Aquarium at LEGOLAND California  
SEA LiFE North America  
Seattle Aquarium  
SeaWorld Orlando  
SeaWorld San Antonio  
Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay  
Sharks Advocates International  
Shedd Aquarium  
South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation (SEZARC)  
The Dallas World Aquarium  
TJP Inc.  
Toledo Zoo and Aquarium  
University of Delaware  
Virginia Aquarium  
Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium

MarAlliance





COMMUNITY

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Our mission to recover threatened sharks and rays worldwide takes a village, or in our case, a monumental global movement.

We are extremely grateful to our network of partners and generous supporters for their continued belief in global collaboration, as well as their shared commitment and hope for the future of our ocean.

Alchemy of Change Fund  
Amy Allshouse  
Andrew Wicklund Design  
AZA Conservation Grants Fund  
AZA Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE)  
Baillie Family  
Charles Engelhard Foundation  
Conservation International  
Daniel Roozen  
Fondation Segré  
George Meyer  
Georgia Aquarium  
Heidi and Chris Rogers  
Henry Foundation  
Jon Persky  
Kansas City Zoo  
Katrine Bosley  
Leonard Conway  
MAC3 Impact Philanthropies  
Mission Blue  
Morshul Charitable Fund  
Ocean Blue Tree  
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong  
Phil Yeung  
Rumah Foundation  
Samantha and Seren Bass  
Save The Blue Foundation  
Seattle Aquarium  
Shannon Wong  
Silolona Sojourns  
The Plum Foundation  
Tropical Marine Centre  
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center



