



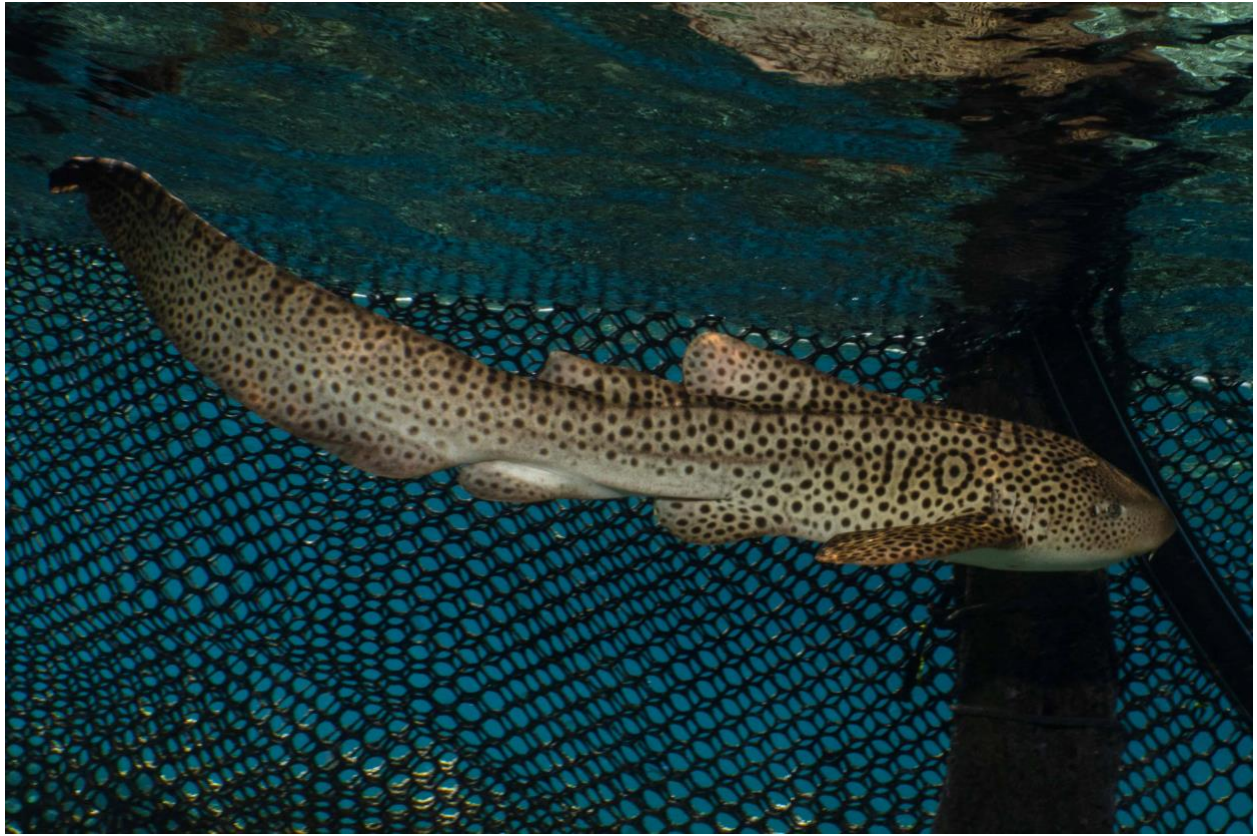
Kia Ora ReSharkers,

Hard to believe its been a month since my last update - the time has flown by while I was largely in Raja Ampat for this time. Plenty of exciting updates to share - read on!

### **Raja Ampat's 75th Pup Released!**

In late June, StAR Indonesia achieved another important milestone - releasing its 75th leopard shark pup into the wild in Raja Ampat! A total of four animals were released: Bertie (120cm TL), Antoine (107cm), Cap (118cm), & Hap (106cm).

Bertie, Antoine and Cap were each released sporting new solar-powered finmount satellite tags, while Hap was released with a microPAT tag programmed for a two month deployment. Each of these beautiful healthy big pups were filmed extensively during their releases (see below), and we'll look forward to reporting more on their movements over the coming months.



*Hap (named after ReShark Council member Hap Fatzinger) anticipating his imminent release!  
Photo by Mark Erdmann.*





*Antoine outfitted with his new finmount satellite tag bling just prior to his release.  
Photo by Mark Erdmann.*

### **Bertie Gregory visits RARCC Nursery in Raja Ampat**

The pup “Bertie” mentioned above that was just released was actually an honorific for wildlife TV presenter Bertie Gregory, who has been an outstanding supporter of ReShark over the past year and whom we had the pleasure of hosting at the RARCC Nursery for a week of filming.

Bertie and his cameraman colleague Ben Cherry filmed the release of all four pups, including Cap - the pup adopted and named by the Child Aid Papua children in recognition of their two years of faithfully supplying snails and clams to the nursery to help feed our growing sharks. The children were there to release Cap themselves, enthusiastically cheering him on as he disappeared into the deep before treating Bertie and Ben to a mangrove foraging expedition in search of more shark food!

Bertie is planning to produce a short film on his visit to the nursery, and he also shot lots of 360 camera footage of the pups (as well as the release of Hap) that he will donate for use by [Blue Bubble Immersive](#) to bring the ocean to children in UK hospitals. We're delighted that our shark pups will bring joy to children overseas, particularly those in hospitals, and we thank Bertie for making this wonderful connection!



*Bertie Gregory with the RARCC nursery team and the freshly satellite-tagged Bertie the leopard shark!  
Photo courtesy of Ben Cherry.*

### **ReShark delves into eDNA at OceanOmics workshop in Perth**

During the week of 15–19 June 2026, the OceanOmics program - hosted by the Minderoo Foundation and the University of Western Australia - held its first workshop, bringing together researchers from across the region for training in eDNA applications.

ReShark was well represented, with Dr. Chris Dudgeon (Chair of the StAR RWG) and Jess Blakeway (University of the Sunshine Coast) joined by our colleagues from Bionesia in Indonesia: Andrianus Sembiring, Ni Luh Astria Yusmalinda, Candra Apriliani, and Rossa Risa Savitri. Other attendees came from Konservasi Indonesia, IPB University (Indonesia), and the Centre of Marine and Coastal Studies, Malaysia (CEMACS). The training kicked off with a series of lectures from OceanOmics staff, OBON (Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network), and Anemone Global (Japan), covering everything from sampling design and tools to the different types of questions eDNA can answer, as well as bioinformatics and data analysis.

Attendees also got hands-on demonstrations of every stage of the lab process, including how to design a lab to minimise contamination and maximise efficiency. A big thank you to Dr. Shannon Corrigan and Dr. Rita Franco-Santos for hosting this



fantastic workshop; look out for lots more eDNA work in ReShark in the coming months!



*Dr. Christine Dudgeon presenting on the STAR Project at the OceanOmics eDNA workshop in Perth.  
Photo courtesy of Rita Santos.*



*Bionesia genetics team learning about advanced eDNA techniques.  
Photo courtesy of Frankie Ixfeld.*

### **Three more Australian leopard shark satellite tags recovered**

In the past year and a half, we've deployed a total of 10 miniPAT satellite tags on adult leopard sharks aggregating during the Austral summer at North Stradbroke Island and Byron Bay in Australia, in an effort to better understand their movements after they disperse from the summer aggregation. All tags were programmed for time frames of 6-12 months to provide data on movements over winter, and 7 of these tags released as programmed (3 of them are still deployed and scheduled to pop off in late August).

In this past month, 3 of the released tags have been recovered by beach combers in Australia, including one found by four year old Ethan (see below!). This brings the total number of tags recovered to 6 (of the 7 that have released), which is a remarkable number of recovered tags.

We are particularly excited to get these tags back, as it means we can download the high resolution data stored on their chips - allowing us to see exactly what these sharks did every second for a 6-12 month period! ReShark collaborators Dr. David Robinson and Dr. Hugo Lassauce are busy analyzing this data and will soon produce a

manuscript describing the movements of these tagged sharks, which of course will be very useful to our work and inform what we should expect for our released sharks in Thailand and Raja Ampat.







*Four year-old Ethan found one of our tags on a beach on the Sunshine Coast of Australia.  
Photo courtesy of Ethan's father Tony!*

### **Geo Magazine and SeaLegacy feature stories on StAR/ReShark**

ReShark and the StAR Project were recently prominently featured in both the German Geo Magazine as well as in a beautiful short film by our friends at SeaLegacy. The layout of the Geo magazine article is nicely viewable [here](#), while the SeaLegacy film can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).

I note that based on the encouragement of Marit Miners from Misool Resort and the efforts of Nat Soon and Virly Yuriken, we now have an Indonesian-subtitled version of the film as well, which can be viewed [here](#).



*Cover of Geo Article on StAR Indonesia.  
Photo by Russell Laman.*

### **Hemiscyllium dudgeonae named in honor of Chris Dudgeon!**

And finally, though not formally a ReShark species (yet!), I wanted to call attention to the recent description of the 10th species of walking shark, *Hemiscyllium dudgeonae*, named after ReShark's own Dr. Christine Dudgeon! Chris stumbled across this undescribed species during a night snorkel in Milne Bay (Papua New Guinea) last year, and we immediately suspected it as new based on its unique color pattern.

Chris and our mutual PhD student Jess Blakeway worked through the genetic analysis to confirm it was indeed new, and our colleague Dr. Gerry Allen then took the lead on the new species description. A very exciting development in Jess' PhD studies, and - importantly - this particular walking shark species appears from our initial survey work to already be in a poor conservation state, having been locally targeted quite heavily by fishing villages in the region.

We're going back in October in the hopes of better documenting the distribution of this species and its conservation status - but it would not surprise me if we end up launching a ReShark project in PNG to help recover this species in the future. Congratulations to Chris on a well-deserved honor - a beautiful new shark species! You can read more on [Oceanographic!](#)



*Hemiscyllium dudgeonae* in the D'Entrecasteaux region of Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea.  
Photo by Mark Erdmann.

All good stuff! Will be back in touch with my next ReShark Ramblings soon with some exciting developments that are now in the works. Til then, be well!

Warm regards,

Mark Erdmann  
Executive Director, ReShark

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# ReShark

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