

From: Mark Erdmann merdmann@rewild.org 
Subject: Fwd: ReShark Ramblings #1 
Date: July 15, 2026 at 10:53 AM
To: Mark Erdmann | Executive Director – ReShark merdmann@rewild.org

ME

[View this email in your browser](#)



Kia Ora!

Warmest greetings from sunny Queenstown, New Zealand, and welcome to the inaugural “ReShark Ramblings” - our fresh attempt to keep “insiders” to the StAR Project and ReShark up to date via a biweekly (ie, every two weeks) update email from the Executive Director (me!). This informal update from me is meant to complement both the active social media channels for ReShark ([@resharkorg](#)) and the four-monthly [“The ReSharker” newsletter](#), and is targeted at aquarium and conservation professionals that are deeply engaged in either the management of StAR Project Indonesia or StAR Project Thailand or ReShark, or are active breeders for our ReShark affiliate projects. It's meant to keep everyone up to date with new developments and happenings that may be reported in working group meetings or from particular aquariums but are not otherwise widely shared in the ReShark family, but deserve to be.

In order to allow people to easily subscribe or unsubscribe, we're using this Mailchimp platform to send this; you're receiving this inaugural message because you are on “The ReSharker” mailing list and you've been deemed to be an “insider”. If you prefer not to receive this, please feel free to unsubscribe. On the other hand, if you

know of a colleague that you think would be interested in receiving this and enjoys an email format for updates, feel free to forward to them and encourage them to subscribe.

Onwards to the updates! The past month has been a busy one, with a fair bit to report:

StAR Project Thailand

The StAR Project Thailand conducted their first release of pups in September! Amazing to think that after only a year of operations, the StAR Thailand team has already [released their first 3 pups](#) into the waters off Maiton Island offshore of Phuket. This was kind of a “soft opening” - with a more formal festive release of the next 3 pups in collaboration with a range of governmental agencies planned for early December. StAR Project Indonesia Project Manager Nesha Ichida and I were delighted to visit the team in Bangkok and Phuket in late September, where StAR Project Thailand Project Manager Metavee “May” Chuangcharoendee did an amazing job hosting us and introducing us to government partners, the Thai “shark nannies”, the WildAid Thailand team and Aquaria Phuket. We were delighted to see the progress made in Thailand and the strong support of especially the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, who just last week honored the StAR Project Thailand with the Award for Outstanding Marine Conservation in Thailand! Congratulations to May and the team there, and thanks to everyone within the StAR/ReShark family who have helped get the project up and running so quickly and efficiently! Some photos below, and a [quick interview](#) I did on StAR Project Thailand:



Also from Thailand, photographer and StAR Thailand advisor Shin Sirachai was just awarded the “Ocean Conservation (Hope) Photographer of the Year” for his image of an Indo-Pacific leopard shark embryo, and was featured in an in-depth [interview with Oceanographic Magazine](#). Congratulations to Shin - whom Nesha and I were delighted to meet in person in Thailand and discuss possible future ReShark projects focused on various wedgefish rewilding projects. Looking forward to continued exciting collaborations in the future with Shin!



StAR Project Indonesia

In the two StAR Project nurseries in Raja Ampat, we currently have 30 *Stegostoma* pups growing and thriving - with 8 in the Misool Foundation seapen at Kalig Island, and 10 in the RARCC seapen at Kri, as well as 12 smaller pups still in grow-out tanks at RARCC. Four of the pups are now approaching a meter in length, and have been acoustically tagged in preparation for their release in late October. These four planned releases will bring the total number of pups released into the biodiverse waters of Raja Ampat to 51 - an important milestone for the project! In other StAR Indonesia news, construction has started on the new Misool Foundation nursery at Kalig - which will be a significant expansion from the current facility at Misool Resort, and will be 100% solar-powered. In that same vein, we've secured funding to convert the RARCC nursery to 100% solar power, and hope to begin that process in the next few weeks. The internship program at both nurseries continues to thrive, having now passed 35 Indonesian interns through the program! And of course, Nesha and

team have now published ReShark's first children's book, ["Maya of Raja Ampat"](#) - which I'll cover in more detail in my next update.

New Egg Shipments and Breeders

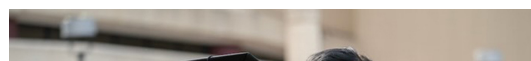
Dr. Caitlin Hadfield from Seattle Aquarium just wrote to confirm that the next shipment to Raja Ampat of 20 eggs will soon be underway! Thanks to the Seattle Aquarium team for continuing to serve this vital function as collation and shipping facility for StAR eggs produced in American aquariums. Speaking of which, it's time to officially welcome a few brand new breeder facilities to the team: Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and Aquarium of the Pacific! Delighted to note that Point Defiance has contributed 7 eggs to the current shipment being prepared in Seattle, along with 2 eggs from Aquarium of the Pacific and 11 from Georgia Aquarium. I'm also super pleased to see that the breeder onboarding process is in the midst of completion for Singapore Oceanarium and Irukandji Aquarium - huge thanks to Lise Watson, Leah Neal and Chris Dudgeon for their ongoing efforts for breeder onboarding!

Updates from Europe

I'm also happy to note that new StAR Project Steering Committee member David Aparici recently presented on the StAR Project at the 2025 European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Annual Conference and the European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC) Conference 2025. Thanks for this David, and looking forward to hopefully soon shipping some eggs to Indonesia from European facilities!

Research Updates

For those that read "The ReSharker", you'll be aware that we currently have a number of post-graduate students and researchers associated with ReShark. Our single postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Hugo Lassauce (working under the guidance of Dr. Christine Dudgeon at University of Sunshine Coast in Australia), recently published on his observations of two male leopard sharks courting a female in New Caledonia - with the associated video of Hugo's mating sharks going viral and being covered by [National Geographic](#), [The Late Show with Stephen Colbert](#), and a host of other late night and comedy shows. Congratulations to Hugo for further popularizing our beloved Stags! Congratulations are also in order for Siobhan Houlihan, who just passed her PhD confirmation seminar at Griffith University! Siobhan will now be pushing full speed ahead on her PhD dissertation research "Investigating the Reproductive Biology and Health of Indo-Pacific Leopard Sharks for the Advancement of Assisted Reproductive Technologies". While I'm at it, a belated congratulations to Julia Tapilatu, one of our former Shark Nannies in Raja Ampat, who recently successfully completed her Master's degree at Texas A&M University investigating "Zebra Shark Growth Rates in Open and Closed Water Systems". Congratulations to Julia, Siobhan and Hugo!





Upcoming Events

Finally, I wanted to alert you all that ReShark will be hosting two events at the upcoming [Sharks International Conference](#) in Sri Lanka from 4-8 May 2026. We'll start with a full-day pre-conference workshop on 3 May on [Shark Rewilding](#) that is being cohosted with Dr. Charlotte Hopkins of the University of Hull, and then we'll also host a standard presentation session entitled "Elasmobranch Reintroductions: The Future is Now". Anyone coming to Sharks International is of course welcome to join our full-day pre-conference workshop, which is meant to be a lively and interactive discussion with the goals of "exploring innovative strategies for shark rewilding, addressing data and perception challenges, introducing the ReShark initiative, and fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration to support the recovery of threatened elasmobranchs". Basically, we want to use this opportunity to gather additional inputs from the elasmobranch research and conservation communities on the future direction of ReShark. As for the presentation session, we warmly invite anyone from the ReShark family to consider presenting in this section on any aspect of Elasmobranch Reintroductions; note that the deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 November 2025!

Okay, that wraps up the inaugural "ReShark Ramblings"! I'm aiming to put one of these out every two weeks (with our wonderful Nat Soon's assistance - thanks Nat!), and I'll be reaching out to working group chairs to provide me with bullet points to highlight in the next email update. I encourage particularly any Aquarium partners that might have interesting ReShark-related news from their facilities to please share with me so that I can get this out to the whole ReShark family. And of course any suggestions to improve this communications effort are much appreciated - I look forward to hearing from you.

Till next time!

Warm regards,
Mark Erdmann
Executive Director, ReShark



ReShark

[Read our Impact Report](#) | [Sign up for The ReSharker](#) | [Sign up for ReShark Ramblings](#) | [Donate](#)

Copyright © 2025 [ReShark](#). All rights reserved.

