

**From:** Mark Erdmann | Executive Director – ReShark merdmann@rewild.org  
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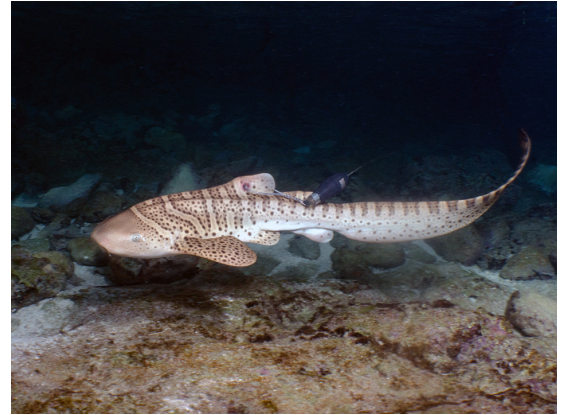
Kia Ora ReShark friends!

And greetings from Raja Ampat, where I've just finished a week at the RARCC nursery on Kri Island with StAR Indonesia Project Manager Nesha Ichida and the wonderful shark nannies and interns at that facility. It was an exceptionally busy week, with lots to report:

### **48th Pup Released in Raja Ampat!**

On Saturday the 25th of October, we released Hugo, our 48th pup to swim free in Raja Ampat! Hugo was 92.5cm in length and just under 2kgs on the day of his release, and we decided to give him some extra “bling” for his journey - affixing a microPAT satellite tag to him using a special harness attached through his dorsal fin, as suggested by Dr. Steve Kessel from Shedd Aquarium. The microPAT is the smallest archival satellite tag made by Wildlife Computers and was only released earlier this year; we've previously attached to several individuals we released in Misool in late May, with some very exciting results that I'll discuss another time.

For Hugo, we've programmed his tag to pop off in mid-January 2026, conveniently at a time when a Georgia Aquarium team including Leah Neal and Dr. Lisa Hoopes will be visiting the RARCC nursery along with Nesha. Hopefully they'll get the opportunity to recover this tag when it pops off, which I'm quite sure will give us some amazing insights into the post-release movements of our sharks, at least in the first few months after release. Join me in wishing Hugo the best of luck in his new life as a wild *Stegostoma* in Raja Ampat!



### **New Egg Shipment Heralds Two New Breeders!**

Earlier this week, we successfully received 17 happy and healthy eggs into Jakarta quarantine. While a number of these eggs were from long-time breeder Georgia Aquarium, I'm delighted to announce that two new contributing breeders were represented in this shipment - Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and Aquarium of the Pacific! A warm shout-out to the husbandry teams from all 3 of these aquariums (and their breeding sharks!), as well as to the wonderful Seattle Aquarium team that coordinated the collation of these eggs and shipment to Indonesia. The eggs are scheduled to arrive to the RARCC nursery within the next 36 hours! This brings the total number of eggs successfully received in Indonesia to 155!

### **New Record for Post-Release Acoustic Monitoring**

Speaking of post-release monitoring, while Nesha and I were at RARCC we recovered and downloaded all the acoustic receivers installed within a roughly 15km radius of the RARCC nursery, and added 10 new Nextrak R1 receivers to our array. There are now 31 receivers in the Dampier Strait region, providing us relatively good coverage of the immediate vicinity of the RARCC nursery/release site. From our downloads, we were able to see the initial movements of the 4 pup released on 1 September 2025 from RARCC (Alice, Matilda, Lisa and Erin). Three

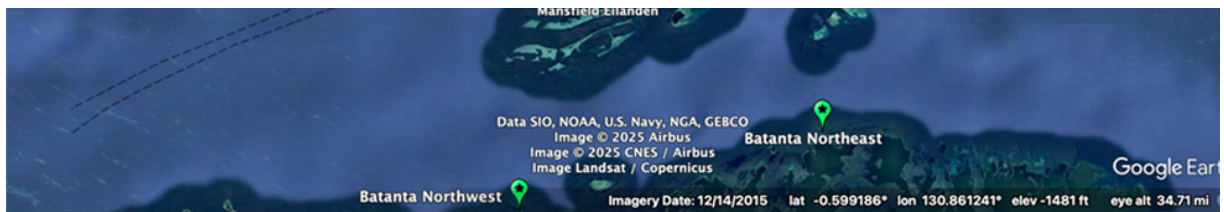
of these pups “disappeared” from the array after the first day, but Alice continued to ping for 10 days - showing us a track that covered a minimum of 25km in 10 days, including a single movement of minimally 17kms between day 9 and 10 post release.

This level of “recapture” is quite typical of our results to date - and while it is frustrating that we don’t get beautiful tracks for all our released pups, that is simply the nature of acoustic tagging - where we only get data if a tagged pup swims within roughly 500m of one of our installed receivers. Over time, though, we are building an interesting picture of post-release movements. And, because the tags that each of our released pups carries have a battery life of 3-5 years, we are always hopeful that a pup may return to our array after a “blank period”. And sure enough, that’s exactly what just happened - Christina, a pup released on 1 October 2024 who only gave us a few pings for the first 4 days after her release, suddenly showed up pinging 26 times at our NW Wai receiver on 5 August 2025 10 months and 4 days after her release!

This is a new record for us in terms of duration of a post-release acoustic track, and is in fact our longest resighting period across all methodologies. Previously, the pup Karen held that record - she was released on 3 October 2024, and she was then physically resighted in 18 June 2025 by a fisherman in Batanta, who took a great video of her surface swimming that allowed us to identify her due to her unique spot pattern. That was of course an 8.5 month resighting, which has now been significantly eclipsed by Christina! We’re exceptionally pleased with this information, as it confirms that our pups are able to survive and thrive in Raja Ampat after release!







## **Sea Pen Upgrade at RARCC Nursery**

As a quick aside, I'd simply note that it was wonderful to swim with the pups in the expanded sea pen at the RARCC nursery - which is now roughly twice the size of the original, and includes a beautiful new landing site for boats coming to visit the nursery. Huge thanks to the Djinda Foundation for sponsoring this upgrade to the facility. We have plenty more upgrades to announce in the near future, but for now we're very pleased with the expansion that will allow us to accommodate even more pups!



## **Testimonials from Child Aid Papua Students**

And wrapping up the updates from Raja Ampat, we were recently delighted to receive a box full of colorfully-painted letters from the students at Child Aid Papua. Many of them mention how they've been working closely with the local

Papua. Many of you may be aware that we've been working closely with the local NGO Child Aid Papua as one of our first suppliers of live snails and clams for shark food in the RARCC nursery, and as the relationship has grown, the students at Child Aid Papua's school have become more and more frequent visitors to the nursery.

They were there for the 1 September 2025 release of 4 pups from RARCC, and at that event we "gifted" the children with the adoption of a newly-hatched pup. They unanimously agreed to name the pup "Cap" (the acronym for Child Aid Papua!), and there was a tremendous outpouring of affection for the little pup. The next week, the children sent us a box of letters; here is a brief selection of some of the messages from the children:

*"Thank you for sharing your experiences with sharks, from their eggs to adulthood. I've learned that sharks are crucial for maintaining a healthy ocean, so they can remain comfortable in the ocean."*

*"Thank you also for teaching us about how long leopard sharks live, and how to hold a shark in the water, and what sharks eat, and what sharks can do, how many babies they have in a year, and also what the importance of sharks is for the sea."*

*"Thank you for letting us name a pup, I love 'Cap' so much > < . That was my first time seeing a leopard shark. I was so excited. I hope this project will be very successful. I'm sorry, I was chasing the shark and wasn't listening well, but now I know and I'll try to not do that anymore."*

### **StAR Project Thailand Updates**

And finally some updates from Thailand. The four remaining pups from the sea pen were taken in early October to Sireethan Hospital for acoustic tagging surgeries, after which time they were brought back safely to the Maiton Island seapen. They are now all scheduled for official release on 3 December, in what is shaping up to be quite a gala affair! As soon as those four sharks are released, the sea pen at Maiton Island will undergo a renovation so that it is ready in the new year to receive a new batch of 8-10 pups from Aquaria Phuket. Good luck to May and the StAR Project Thailand team!

And in closing, I thought I'd quickly share this link for anyone interested in purchasing online any of the uber-cool leopard shark leggings, buffs, bandanas or scuba socks that may have seen Nesha wearing in various photos and videos: <https://seaconnectionart.com/en-id/pages/reshark>. This line of underwater clothing was developed by Simone Tomazoli of Sea Connection Art, and she

clothing was developed by Simone Tomazeira of Sea Connection Art, and she generously donates the profits from the sale of this merchandise to supporting the StAR Project Indonesia via Thrive Conservation.

In the next ReShark Ramblings, I'll report back on a major milestone set to happen soon - our 50th pup release in Raja Ampat. Til then, be well!

Warm regards,

Mark Erdmann  
Executive Director, ReShark



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