

EVERY YEAR 150 MILLION SHARKS GO MISSING...
WHERE THEY END UP WILL SHOCK YOU.

FROM ROB STEWART, THE AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR OF SHARKWATER

SHARKWATER EXTINCTION

SEA SHEPHERD PAUL WATSON LES STROUD MADISON STEWART ROB STEWART JULIE ANDERSON

SHARKWATER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A DATIVE PICTURE IN ASSOCIATION WITH ELEVATION PICTURES AND THROTTLE ENTERTAINMENT
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COMING SOON



February 2017

Newsletter

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In loving memory: Rob Stewart

On January 31st, we received the sad news that our dear friend and devoted ocean protector Rob Stewart passed away. Stewart (37) was diving at Islamorada in the Florida Keys, looking for the critically endangered sawfish, when he went missing after surfacing from a 200-foot dive.

During his career as a wildlife photographer, filmmaker, conservationist, and educator, Rob Stewart won many awards. Born and raised in Toronto, he began photographing underwater when he was only 13 years old. By the age of 18 he became a scuba instructor trainer, from



Mogelijk gemaakt door



which he moved on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, studying in Ontario, Jamaica and Kenya.

Stewart was best known for his movie *Sharkwater*, with which he showed the world how sharks are not mindless bloodthirsty animals, but instead play an important role in maintaining oceanic ecosystems. The spectacular imagery of sharks impressed its viewers and is considered the genesis for the shark conservation movement. Stewart's second film *Revolution* brought the "evolution of life and the revolution to save us" to the public. The new movie of *Sharkwater Extinction* was focused on illegal fisheries and the billion-dollar industry behind the use of shark in common everyday products, such as cosmetics, pet food and livestock feed. Fortunately, Stewart's family announced that the movie will be finished, in honor of Rob Stewart's life's work, with thanks to the high (financial) support they received after his death.

On a more personal note: Rob's friends at the Save Our Sharks project are heart broken over his loss. He dedicated his life to save the oceans and sharks and we vow to continue to work for the goals that he believed in. We are thankful for what he did and who he was. We miss him already.



Take the first step. Don't be afraid. Lean in. By working for good, for life, or for conservation, your task will call out the best in you. There has never been a better time to be a filmmaker or conservationist and the world has never needed you more.

- Rob Stewart



Shark workshop on St. Eustatius

This month, a workshop was held on St. Eustatius to talk about shark conservation on the island. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (LVV) of St Eustatius, together with the Pew Charitable Trusts, organized the meeting. Policy makers, fishermen, nature organizations, and the marine park managers Stenapa all came together to speak about how St. Eustatius could best join the Yarari marine sanctuary.

The Yarari sanctuary was established in September 2015 in the Economic Exclusive Zones of Saba and Bonaire as a sanctuary for marine mammals and sharks. Because Saba and Bonaire are special municipalities of the Netherlands, the Dutch government is currently developing a concrete implementation strategy for the marine reserve.

Adding St. Eustatius to the Yarari reserve would be a big step towards a network of protected areas within the Caribbean region. Currently, the Caribbean already has seven so-called Shark Sanctuaries in the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Honduras, the Cayman Islands, St. Maarten, Saba, and Bonaire.

For St. Eustatius, shark conservation is a priority, because sharks contribute to healthy coral reefs and attract potential dive tourism.

Camera research on Aruba

Led by researcher Martin de Graaf from Wageningen Marine Research, and funded by the Global Fingerprint project, a new research project was started on Aruba looking at the shark community around the island. De Graaf is working with a team of students and marine biologists. The research is looking at what sharks and ray species occur in Aruban waters by using Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUV). This means video cameras are lowered to the bottom of the sea and record all the animals swimming by that are attracted by the bait bag in front of the camera.

As soon as the Aruban research is done, all six Dutch Caribbean islands will have been sampled with the underwater video method, which will allow for in-depth comparisons between the islands. Eventually, the data will contribute to better knowledge about the effect of sharks on coral reef ecosystems and the effect of humans on sharks and their habitats.

The camera research on Aruba already sampled the West side and South side of the island, and will finally head East.



DUTCH CARIBBEAN SHARK WEEK

3-11 June 2017



THE TIME IS NOW

The Save Our Sharks project will organize the third Dutch Caribbean Shark Week from **June 3-11, 2017**, simultaneously on six Caribbean islands and in the Netherlands. The week will be filled with activities and events taking place in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius, and the Netherlands. All activities are set up to highlight sharks and their importance for the oceans.



We're inviting you to join us and help!

For instance, help with the **Royal Shark Count**, where we go out and find sharks in the entire kingdom, or participate in the **I Love Sharks photo challenge**, encouraging people to think about shark conservation. Or organize a **movie night**, **shark lecture**, **shark trivia**, a **scavenger hunt** for kids, or teach a **lesson about sharks** in class. Or maybe you want to help with a shark event on **World Oceans Day** or in an **aquarium**. The possibilities are endless.

If you're interested, please contact info@saveoursharks.nl

If you have any questions or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact info@saveoursharks.nl