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Newsletter

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Talking sharks at the Duikvaker

As large predators, sharks play an important role in maintaining the health of the ecosystem. Yet, on a worldwide scale, one-quarter of sharks are threatened with extinction. All the more reason to protect these fascinating animals. And conservation is not just a duty for governments. You too can play your part.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Duikvaker, the Netherland's biggest Diving Sports Exhibition. In the weekend of February 4-5, our very own Irene Kingma will join the team from DuikeninBeeld at the Duikvaker dive fair to talk about what you can do to make a difference. And of course, you can ask her all you want to know about sharks. Do you have a question about spatial distribution, sharks in Dutch waters, or the Save Our Sharks project?

Come find us at the DuikeninBeeld stand in Hall 1 on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 15:00h. and on Sunday, Feb. 6 at 12:30h.



Dates set for Dutch Caribbean Shark Week 2017

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 will keep you posted about the upcoming plans in the newsletter, on the website, and on social media.



Photos by Carmabi, Kai Wulf en Veer en Vorm

Shark survey on Curaçao

The Save Our Sharks team on Curaçao is conducting surveys among locals and tourists about their knowledge and perception of sharks in the Caribbean. The questionnaire was based on the Rare Pride Model set up. The first 123 surveys were undertaken in November and December of 2016.

One of the findings among Curaçaoans was that young people were better able to distinguish different shark species. This may be because young people have a higher tendency to visit the Sea Aquarium where you can find nurse sharks, lemon sharks, and stingrays. Another interesting find was that most respondents think that sharks should be protected on a global scale, although they would rather not have any sharks around their island. Also, many of them fail to see the importance of sharks for the health of coral reefs.

Similar surveys were undertaken on Bonaire and in the Netherlands, and the results were much alike. In the Netherlands, for example, 61% of the respondents said they would rather not swim in waters that have sharks in them, even though they do like swimming in the North Sea, in which you find several shark species.

Carmabi will use the results of the questionnaires for educational purposes and to inform people about the different aspects involving shark conservation.

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