



August 2017

Newsletter

In this issue

- 1 Caribbean relay stage in Boskalis Beach Cleanup Tour
- 2 Winston Gerschtanowitz visits Save Our Sharks
- 3 Mako shark on Bonaire
- 4 Upcoming events

Caribbean relay stage in Boskalis Beach Cleanup Tour

Balloons, straws, old fishing nets, oil, paraffin, and even pieces of garden furniture; This is just a minor selection of the litter that was cleaned up by Save Our Sharks and a lot of enthusiastic volunteers on the beach between Castricum and Wijk aan Zee. The cleanup was part of the Boskalis Beach Cleanup Tour by the North Sea Foundation. The stage of August 13th was part of a Caribbean relay. At the end of the Cleanup, the baton was symbolically handed over to a representative of Save Our Sharks Saba and our zealous colleagues and volunteers on St. Maarten and Aruba cleaned the beaches of their respective islands. Earlier that weekend, nature organizations on Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius had cleared their beaches in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund.

It was the first time that such a cleanup relay was organized throughout the kingdom. In total, a staggering 800 kilos of waste were collected on the stretch of beach between Castricum and Wijk aan Zee.

Continue on page

3

Winston Gerschtanowitz visits Save Our Sharks

Postcode Lottery ambassador Winston Gerschtanowitz recently visited the Save Our Sharks project as part of the RTL4 television show *'Bestemming...'*. The show is about ambassadors visiting different projects that are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

Gerschtanowitz traveled to Saba and St. Maarten, where he literally submerged himself in the world of nature conservation. He observes a giant polluting landfill that is causing a major threat to nature, both on land and in the sea, he dives with sharks, and he joins on a trip out at sea to tag them. During the rough days at sea, the team successfully caught two tiger sharks, including an 8,5 foot large male who was aptly named "Winston".

The episode of *'Bestemming...'* featuring Save Our Sharks will air on Sunday, September 10 at 11.30 PM on RTL4.



Mako shark stranded on Bonaire

Marine Park rangers from STINAPA Bonaire brought in a shortfin mako shark to CIEE Bonaire after it was found washed ashore. The shark is the largest animal the staff at CIEE has ever necropsied at the station. The shortfin mako has the fastest recorded swimming speed of any shark and is listed as a vulnerable species by the IUCN. There was a hole in the lower jaw where the shark had been hooked and a wear-line where fishing line likely rubbed the skin of the shark. As far as CIEE can tell, the shark was dead when it washed ashore.

The shark was a female with a total length of 2 m. (6'6"). A female shortfin mako becomes reproductive at a length of 2.75 m, which is approximately 18 years of age. This shark was probably 8-10 years old and therefore not large enough to have reproduced in its short life.



CIEE staff collected tissue samples that we hope to have analyzed for heavy metals and parasites. They found two types of parasites that they preserved in the lab. One is a parasitic copepod that was on the gills and attached to the roof of the mouth. The parasites will be studied as well.

Upcoming events

Save Our Sharks likes to participate in events with which they can help educating people about the beauty and importance of sharks and the need for shark conservation. Over the next month, you will find us at the following events. For more information you can visit the Save Our Sharks website.



BOOK PRESENTATION “MISSIE RED DE HAAI”

September 9th, 2:00 PM, Boekhandel Blokker, Heemstede

On September 9th, author Lian Kandelaar will officially present her new book *Missie red de haai*. Save Our Sharks and the World Wildlife Fund will join her to give information about sharks.



SEA THE FUTURE

September 10th, 11:00 AM, Maaspoort Sport en Events, Den Bosch

The Sea First Foundation is organizing a special event for their tenth anniversary, as well as the 70th birthday of its founder, Dos Winkel: Sea the Future – for the ocean, the environment, and our health. And Save Our Sharks will be there as one of the participants.



GREENDOC: SHARKWATER

September 27th, 7:30 PM, Metabolic Lab @ De Ceuvel, Amsterdam

This summer, De Ceuvel present Rob Stewart's documentary *Sharkwater*. Marine biologist Linda Planthof from Save Our Sharks will join the evening together with Felix Petersma, a dive master and shark enthusiast, who will lead a discussion after the screening.

Continuing from page

1



On a global scale, coasts are flooded with plastic waste. Many marine animals get stuck in plastic bags and packaging or mistake plastic products for food, often with a deadly outcome. For this reason, Save Our Sharks decided to join the Boskalis Beach Cleanup Tour, an initiative of the North Sea Foundation, which will clean the beaches along the Dutch coast throughout the summer. For more information about plastic pollution and marine life, read the article on the website at www.saveoursharks.nl/en/plastic-sharks.

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