

# Shark Conservation Society

## End of Year Newsletter 2009

Welcome to the second SCS newsletter.

Should anyone have any comments or material that they would like to be included please get in touch with Mark Boothman at [markboothman@gmail.com](mailto:markboothman@gmail.com)



Bull shark, Viti Levu, Fiji – photograph taken in June 2009 by Chris Carroll

### FROM THE EDITOR

The months have flown by since I put the last newsletter together but there certainly hasn't been any shortage of shark related news. Recent developments in the world of shark conservation have been very promising and there are encouraging signs that the hard work is paying off and the battle is very much still there to be won. In particular the U.K.'s decision to finally declare that it will now prohibit finning taking place in its waters is a very positive development and we hope other nations follow suit. Palau's recent declaration of its waters as a 'shark sanctuary' is another indicator that the conservation message is gaining momentum, and it is great to see that it is an issue slowly creeping up many political agendas. It is sometimes easy to forget how many people are unaware of the dire straits in which many species currently find themselves, but decisions such as these bring the plight of sharks into the media spotlight and are vitally important in increasing public awareness.

There is of course still a huge amount of work to be done and we await with baited breath the outcome of the annual EU discussions in December which will set the fishing quotas for next year. Let's hope that like last Christmas we will have something extra to celebrate this year.

A couple of months ago I was compiling a list of the successes and achievements of the Society and I was truly amazed at the positive impact that we have had around the world over the years. Once again this year has brought successes for us, and it is only because of our supporters, friends and HLMs that we can carry on reaching our goals, so a massive thank you to all of you and I hope that we can rely on your continued support in the New Year.

I was extremely pleased to receive so many positive comments following the last newsletter and delighted that it was received well by all, so again thanks to those who sent in comments. Although there's not the space to name everyone individually for me personally it was particularly great to receive such



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encouraging words from Society HLMs Ron and Valerie Taylor and Chris and Monique Fallows. They have done great work for shark conservation over the years so to receive their approval was a real bonus.

Finally thanks to those of you who have sent in their ideas and photos for use in this newsletter, and if anyone has anything they would like to be included in the next one then please contact me by e-mail directly at markpboothman@gmail.com and I'll do my best to include as much as I can.

## FROM THE OFFICE

This newsletter has a new section written by Richard, Jacqui and Denise who work tirelessly day to day to keep the society running - so here's what they say from the depths of SCS HQ!



Richard on the October 2009 Adriatic expedition on the final approach to Jabuka Island

## RICHARD WRITES

"We have had an extraordinary first year since changing our name to the Shark Conservation Society.

- Our Registered Supporters (R.S.) roll comfortably exceeded our first year target of 100.
- Attendance at our first two dive shows produced supporters and funds (£3000 was raised at Birmingham) so thank you all very much.
- Sharks in British Seas DVD has been broadcast, is selling well, and winning awards (This film has SCS input).
- The Qatar expedition carried on with the same pattern of work that was begun in Kuwait, gathered even more data, and has achieved its three conservation goals.
  - Green Sawfish protection
  - 3 month closure of pupping ground.
  - 3 month ban on all shark landings.
- The Adriatic expedition proved the Blue shark nursery ground, and the data is now with Alen Soldo who will look for ways to protect the area.
- Our online shop has opened and while not posing a threat to Marks & Spencers sales are growing steadily!

Your Society has come a long way in a short time and has a lot further to go. I have just returned from Abu Dhabi and RS's who are interested in places on this expedition should register now. Applications will be considered and places announced by the end of January, at which time air tickets should be bought. So far everyone who wanted a place on an expedition got one. I'm afraid that as the Society grows places on expeditions will not always be possible for everyone who applies, AND expedition rules will from now be



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rigorously adhered to e.g. appropriate behaviour and dress in other cultures, no alcohol ban at sea, no relationships on expeditions, etc. etc. Your Society is succeeding in spades, this will only continue and expand if we stay focused and disciplined.

SCS is unique, and we deliver for sharks, there is no other similar supporter based society in the world. The Shark Trust do their thing, Biteback theirs, and Sea Shepherd theirs, what we do is different. We all have our parts to play and the board recently decided that we would continue to direct our efforts solely into our own area of expertise (expeditions and through them conservation), and would continue to steer clear of other people's patches, while supporting them when appropriate.

We pride ourselves on being "doers" not talkers or paper shufflers. Our thing is on and in the water practical work - research, filming, catch and release tagging, animal handling, market visits, photography, film-making, and seamanship. If any supporters have ideas where these skills can be applied to further shark conservation please get in touch with the office – IT'S YOUR SOCIETY.

### **WE NEED YOUR VOTE**

There is a strong and growing body of opinion within the conservation movement that would like to see an end to lots of human/animal interactions, with "viewing from afar" being the only wildlife opportunity. Your board strongly believes that well managed eco-tourism run with respect for the wildlife is one of the ways to ensure a future for wildlife on this planet.

Please e-mail YES or NO on the following motion to [members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com)

"Well managed shark eco-tourism run with the highest regard for the safety of both humans and sharks, and based on best practice guidelines is good for shark conservation, and helps promote awareness of this often misunderstood group of animals".

YES / NO

Please vote ([members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com)).

Thank you all for your support, and have a Happy Christmas and a successful 2010"

*Richard Peirce*

### **JACQUI WRITES**

"It was great to meet so many of you at the Dive Shows. Thank you all very much for your continuing help and support, a Volunteer society is only as good as its volunteers.

The U.A.E. expedition is now just round the corner, so twelve of you guys will soon have me chasing round after you again telling you to tidy up, and get things shipshape in the shore base!

If any smokers apply for the U.A.E. I'll try and make sure that at least a couple of you get on the trip, so I won't be sitting outside puffing away by myself.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR."

*Jacqui Peirce*

### **DENISE WRITES**

"Thank you to all those who have renewed their subscriptions. Please do renew on the first reminder because I hate chasing you!

The directors will be starting to organise SCS regional social events next year



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and I'll soon be in touch letting you know which region you are in, and who the director/organiser is for your region.

The shop is now fully up and running and we are adding new items all the time. SCS doesn't look for funding or use begging bowl practices – we ask for logistics support (foreign governments) or make our own money. This is why the shop and our “supporters” and “friends” are vital to our survival. Please use the shop and please re-join at renewal time.

All the best for Christmas and 2010.”

Denise Headon



Cartoon by Chris Wylie

## SOCIETY NEWS

(Don't forget to keep an eye on the news section of the website at [www.sharkconsoc.com/shark.news](http://www.sharkconsoc.com/shark.news) which will give you all the latest updates from the Society)

### *Current numbers of supporters*

We now have well over 100 Registered Supporters (RS's) and Friends, and the Board is delighted at the progress the society has made over the last 12 months. For those who have recently joined we'd like to offer a warm welcome, and a big thank you. We have been delighted so far with the retention rate of supporters with nearly all choosing to renew their subscriptions. Although it is great to see new faces in the Society it is just as satisfying to see we are hanging onto the old ones, so to all those who have renewed thank you very much. We hope that supporters whose renewal dates are coming up will choose to continue their vital contribution to the Society.

### *Honorary Life Members (HLMs)*

The list of our HLMs also continues to grow, and since the last newsletter Chris Wylie, Mark Addison and Thabit Abdessalaam (UAE) have all accepted “HLMships”.

Chris is a marine biologist and a very talented cartoonist who has done the cartoons for our Christmas cards and calendars. His work offers a comic angle on sharks and conservation generally, which is often a good way to reinforce our serious message.



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Mark is a dedicated shark conservationist, underwater cameraman and photographer, and he has led Blue Wilderness Dive Expeditions in South Africa for 20 years in the process acquiring a vast knowledge of the different species inhabiting South African waters.

Thabit is the Director of Marine Biodiversity at the Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi and SCS is very grateful for his support during the planning phase of the April 2010 expedition and looks forward to working with him further next year.



Bob Pennington using the 'bottle crushing' shark attractant technique during the September 2010 Qatar Mini-expedition

### ***New Director***

In September Bob Pennington was invited to join the SCS board. Bob first became involved with the Society in 2005 during the Adriatic shark survey expedition, and has remained involved in our work ever since. He is a retired chief police officer, and also a very experienced diver with considerable knowledge of diving in Devon and Cornwall and elsewhere around the U.K.

### ***Design and Print Consultant***

Earlier in the year Russell Atkinson agreed to become the Society's Design and Print Consultant. As well as being a freelance designer he is also a fulltime airport fire fighter, so we are all immensely grateful that he chooses to volunteer his limited free time to help us out at no cost. If you want to view his portfolio it is available to download at [www.russatkinson.co.uk](http://www.russatkinson.co.uk)

### ***Birmingham Dive Show***

It was great to see and catch up with supporters at the stand, and for a drink on the Saturday evening. Our apologies to any of you who came to the stand at a busy moment, and we didn't get a proper chance to have a chat with.

The SCS stand was once again very popular, and of the new supporters that I spoke to there is no doubt that they will prove to be valuable additions on future expeditions, and generally great assets to the Society. We look forward to meeting again, either on an upcoming expedition or at a social event.

Sales at the show were extremely good and the feedback we had about new products added to the SCS range was also very positive. There has to be a special mention here for Bob who is certainly the most incredible salesman I've ever come across. You would be hard pushed to find many people who attended the show and who didn't end up returning home with a new SCS pen, mug or t-shirt! Thanks Bob and we're all very glad that you have signed up for



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the London show next March. All supporters please note if you show Bob your subscription card he promises that he will stay well clear and you won't be forced to buy anything!



Volunteers on the SCS stand in October 2009

### ***Berlin Marathon***

On 20 September an old friend of mine Ashley Taylor ran the Berlin Marathon and in doing so raised over four hundred pounds for the Society. He managed to complete the 26 miles in just over 3 and a half hours, which was an incredible achievement, many congratulations. . I took Ashley to see his first shark in the wild whilst working for Richard and Shark Cornwall in 2007. We had a stunning day out with a beautiful female Blue shark, who was very obliging and stayed around the boat for nearly an hour, allowing everyone onboard to enjoy a magical encounter. It is great to know that Ashley's first shark encounter has had such a lasting impact, and thanks again to him for choosing to raise money for SCS.



Ashley, having just completed the marathon, managed to locate a toy shark in the centre of Berlin – both considerable achievements!



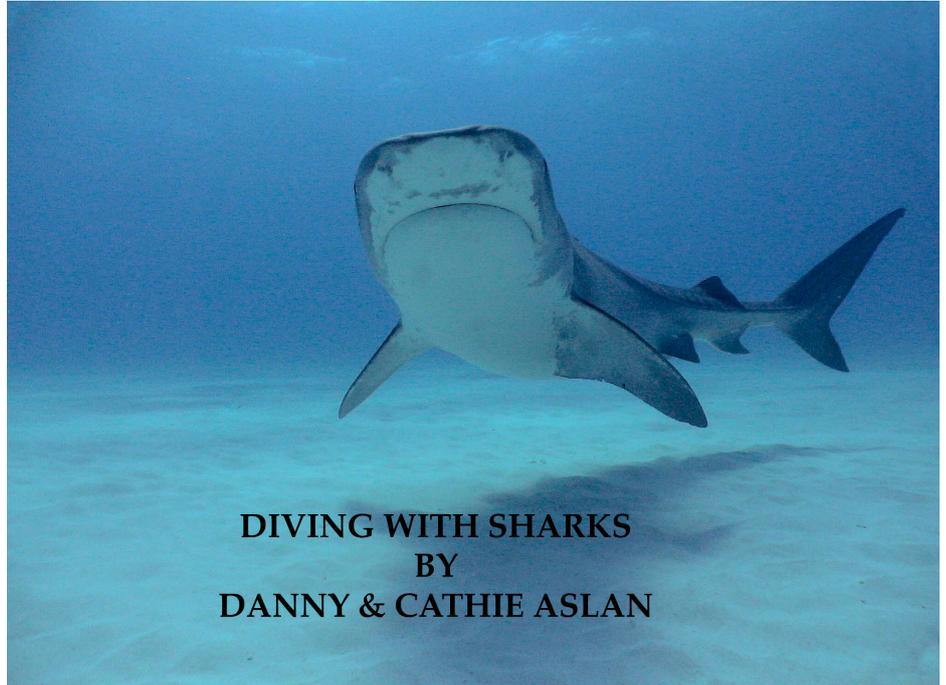
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### ***Diving with sharks***

Danny and Cathie Aslan have had some incredible shark encounters over the years. They have also been long serving supporters of the shark conservation movement, and have been members of the Shark Trust for years, as well being two of the first SCS RS's. As part of their support they recently made a very generous donation to the Society in anticipation of future sales of their DVD, 'Diving with Sharks'. The film was put together completely by Danny and Cathie and is their first production documenting their shark travels around the world! Danny amassed hours of underwater footage of sharks and this is the "highlights package" showing some truly amazing encounters. If you want to get a copy they are available from the shop at [www.sharkconsoc.com/shark.shop](http://www.sharkconsoc.com/shark.shop) priced at £6.50 inc. P&P



The front cover of the Aslan's film, 'Diving with Sharks'

### ***Rob Allen Photography***

Rob is an SCS board member, is also an underwater photographer specialising in photographing sharks. He too has had some incredible shark encounters over the years, and has travelled extensively in order to get those rare shots. He has generously donated proceeds from recent sales of his prints to the society so many thanks Rob for your generosity. To view his spectacular portfolio of photographs and to purchase your own please visit [www.robballensharkphotography.com](http://www.robballensharkphotography.com)

Chris Summers became our first "Life long supporter" when he started a regular Direct Debit donation – thank you Chris.



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### ***Fundraising***

If any supporters would like to support the Society by taking part in any fundraising activity it would be greatly appreciated, and please contact the office who will be happy to offer guidance and assistance.

### ***Palau***

On 25 September President Johnson Toribiong of Palau announced at the UN that Palau was banning the commercial fishing of sharks throughout Palau's waters. Although enforcing such a ban will be problematic, it was a remarkable decision and one which we hope other nations will follow. Additionally it also brought the problems facing sharks into the international media spotlight and so helped to further raise awareness. Richard has written to the President on behalf of the Society to congratulate him on this bold initiative.

## **Croatia**

Alen Soldo, the SCS scientific advisor for the Mediterranean, has informed us of positive news for sharks in the Adriatic. The following species will now join the Basking shark and the Great White in being protected in Croatian waters: Sandbar shark, Blue shark, Smooth Hammerhead, Soupfin shark (Tope), Sharpnose Sevengill shark, Bluntnose Sixgill shark, Thresher shark, Shortfin Mako, Porbeagle, Sandtiger shark, Smalltooth Sandtiger, Angular Roughshark, Angelshark and Smoothback Angel shark.

Alen played a leading part in getting this law passed so many congratulations to him.

## **Kuwait Whale Shark Rescue**

On 20 July a six metre female Whale shark swam into a marina in Kuwait where she became trapped and unable to find her way out. Initial attempts to guide the shark out of the marina failed, however a planned coordinated initiative was undertaken by Kuwaiti organisations including the EPA (Environment Protection Authority), TSCK (The Scientific Centre of Kuwait), KDT (Kuwait Diving Team) and VWC (Voluntary Work Centre, divers from Sinyar team) and the animal was successfully guided back out to sea on 26 July.

The team was initially hesitant to directly interfere with the Whale shark and instead wanted to give her an opportunity to make her own escape freely. During the course of the week though it became increasingly clear that she was unlikely to do this without direct human intervention.

The rescue operation entailed the shark being assisted onto a specifically designed giant stretcher which could then be transported by boat back into the open ocean. It may not sound too difficult but don't forget we are talking about a 6 metre animal here so this was no mean feat!

Dareen Almojil, the SCS Arabian Gulf Representative, was instrumental in coordinating the major rescue operation on the ground, whilst Richard provided invaluable advice over the phone. Congratulations to Dareen and the rest of her team who can be very proud of their achievement.

To see footage of the Whale shark before it was rescued from the marina please visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/34634041@N05/3746389423/>



Whale shark, Tofo, Mozambique – taken by Mark Boothman, March 2008



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## **Engagement**

Many congratulations are due to board member Stuart Nicholls who recently got engaged. His choice of ring was particularly impressive – an incredibly large jewel made entirely of plastic. As if this wasn't enough in itself it also contained a blue flashing LED! I'm very glad that his new fiancée has such a good sense of humour and no doubt she will certainly need it living with Stuart and Wally - who we understand is delighted to be getting a new mum. All the best to both of them for the future.

## **Supporters' News**

If you have got any news relating to the society then please e-mail the office at [members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com)

## **FUTURE DATES**

### **Early 2010**

Early next year the office will be contacting all supporters to begin organising SCS social events which will be on a regional basis.

### **27-28 March 2010 – London International Dive Show**

SCS will again have a stand at the London Dive Show where Richard will again be a headline speaker. His new talk show is called "Mediterranean (Adriatic) Blue & Great White Sharks".

LIDS will be an excellent place to meet other SCS supporters and wildlife enthusiasts, hear from an array of different speakers, as well as being able to find a bargain or two if you're lucky. Once again we will be hosting a supporters - drinks at one of the nearby hotel bars on the evening of the 27th. Please keep the date free as it's always great to have the opportunity to meet up with supporters and get together for a few drinks.

Further information about LIDS when more details are known will be posted in the News section of the website, and supporters will also be e-mailed.



Stuart on the hunt for any would-be shark conservationists at the Birmingham Dive Show – October 2009



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### **April – United Arab Emirates Expedition**

The third Arabian Gulf expedition will take place during a three-week period in April. At the time of going to press Richard is in the UAE organising the exact details, but it is anticipated that the expedition dates will be 3 – 24 April.

The aims of the expedition will be, as in Kuwait and Qatar, to conduct a general shark survey. This will be using a two-tiered approach, the first being an 'at sea' survey where volunteer groups will conduct 24 hour round the clock chumming to see what species can be identified. The teams will be divided into pairs who have the responsibility of ensuring that during their shift chumming is kept at a steady constant rate, and that they are keeping a continual watch for sightings of sharks. The areas worked will be centred on the emirate of Abu Dhabi, and there is a wide array of different ecosystems and possible elasmobranch species that may be encountered.

The other phase of the expedition will be the market research which will involve the volunteer teams visiting fish markets daily in order to identify what shark and ray species are present and to then take appropriate data from all specimens. The teams will try and visit as many markets as possible to gain the most complete picture possible of shark fisheries in the region.

This waiting list for this expedition is now open and if any supporter wishes to be placed on it then please get in touch with the office by e-mailing [members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com). Further details as to cost, exact times etc. will be released as and when they are finalised. Please note that volunteers require no previous experience and all supporters are eligible to apply. Any training will be provided and assistance will be available at all times. Please note however that the days will be arduous as working in shifts overnight takes its toll mentally and physically, especially in high temperatures, and the market teams are often out from 5am until lunchtime, so it is not a holiday! If you would like further information on this expedition then please get in touch with the office.

There is no guarantee applicants will get a place on an expedition, and please be aware that there may be disappointments, as it is anticipated that there will be significant interest. Anyone interested please sign up onto the waiting list ASAP by sending an e-mail to [members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com)



Volunteers on the Kuwait 2008 Expedition record the elasmobranch landings from local fisherman, accompanied by the film crew and scientific advisor Alec Moore.

### ***July/August (tbc) – Porbeagle Expedition***

The 4th annual Porbeagle expedition off North Cornwall will take place for a week during the summer next year. Following the successes of previous expeditions and changes in European legislation, the scientific and conservation aims of this expedition have already largely been achieved. However there is still only a very limited amount of underwater footage and photography of this species (almost all of which was obtained on past SCS expeditions) so trying to gather more film and photos will be the primary purpose. Video footage and photographs are vital in being able to spread public awareness and so this expedition is still hugely important. There will also hopefully be an opportunity to get in the water and if successful this will, as far as we aware, be the first time this has ever been achieved and could ultimately lead to a new ecotourism venture, which may further help to safeguard this species' survival.

Please note: The dates are as yet not fixed as we are currently trying to work out on which hour/day/week/month the UK has its summer after this year's total washout! If anyone has any ideas when the British summer is or when



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it's expected to return then please get in touch with the office as we would be extremely grateful for this information. Richard will contact all those who have expressed interest as soon as north Cornwall has a high-pressure settled period of weather in June/July.

Richard will also be doing two SCS Blue shark days for RS's so if you are interested please contact the office.



A juvenile Milk shark in the recovery tank before being safely released. Taken during the April 2009 Qatar expedition

## EXPEDITION NEWS

### *Qatar Expedition*

In September Richard, Bob and myself returned to Qatar to continue discussions with the authorities about implementing the three suggestions that the Society recommended as a result of the findings on the April expedition. These were:

- Complete protection for the critically endangered Green Sawfish by way of mandatory release and reporting of all animals;
- Total ban on all shark and ray fisheries between 15 Feb – 15 May every year, which our research indicated was the pupping season for many species; and
- 3 month annual ban on all fishing activities in the 2 mile area of the shark pupping/nursery area discovered on the April expedition.

All three proposals were accepted by the Department of Fisheries (Ministry of Environment) and the Qatari government were, as usual, extremely helpful in offering their support and assistance. SCS is now working to publish information sheets and posters which will be distributed in Qatar in order to inform those in the fishing industry of the changes. From early next year therefore the sharks of Qatar will be offered the respite they need in order to promote population growth.

The Society would once again like to extend it's sincere thanks to all those in Qatar, not just for their overwhelming support and hospitality, but also for taking such a leading stance in protecting its fragile marine ecosystem. When the CITIES conference arrives in Doha in April 2010, the Qatari people can be extremely proud of the protection measures that they have put in place and can boast of being one of the world leaders in respect of their shark conservation programmes.

Congratulations and thanks are also due to every SCS volunteer who was involved in the expedition as without all of your hard work we would not have been able to achieve such considerable success. All those exhausting shifts, stinking clothes, early morning wake ups to visit the fish markets, and of course



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putting up with Bennett's jokes, has certainly paid off and everyone can be extremely proud of their achievements. Let's hope that the UAE expedition can be even more successful!

(For the observant among you, you will have noticed there has been no mention of gaining footage of Sandbar sharks as mentioned in the last newsletter that we had also hoped to do whilst in Qatar. Unfortunately despite hours of trying we eventually ran out of time with only two unconfirmed sightings right on the edge of visibility. It was frustrating not to have any close encounters. Let's hope that with the introduction of the new measures there is every chance that future trips will be much more successful in respect of shark encounters.)



The September 2009 team about to cross the Qatari desert

### ***Adriatic Expedition***

This was the third time that Richard has led a major shark research expedition to the Adriatic and although the first two in 2005 and 2006 were disappointing in terms of number of individuals sighted, the data gathered provided help in getting the Great White protected in the Croatian half of the Adriatic. It was also used in the publication of a scientific paper relating to the decline of Blue shark populations in the Mediterranean, and a major documentary film of the expedition was made and broadcast across Europe.

The 2009 expedition aimed to provide evidence of a Blue shark nursery/pupping area. It was hoped that if a nursery area could be proved then Alen Soldo would be able to secure a ban on fishing activities to protect these vulnerable animals at a crucial time in their lives.

Expedition member Andy Sweeney has kindly written the following report on the expedition (For the official expedition report please visit the website):

“The Adriatic sea in the Mediterranean was once considered a hot spot for sharks and Alen Soldo reports 28 species of shark previously recorded. Unfortunately however most of the sharks present in the Adriatic are severely depleted due to over fishing, loss of prey species and pollution.

This expedition was focused around the Kornati islands, a beautiful archipelago and designated national park consisting of approximately 150 islands and reefs in the Zadar County of Croatia. Alen has long suspected that the Kornati Islands were a pupping and nursery area for Blue sharks. However his suspicions were largely based on anecdotal evidence from local sports fishermen. In order to scientifically prove a nursery area the team was hoping to encounter juvenile Blues (under 1.3 metres in length) together with a lack of mature adults. If solid evidence of a pupping/nursery area was gathered it



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could in turn be used as ammunition to obtain effective conservation measures for the species.

The research vessel, Eudi, was skippered by Vlado, who has been on both previous SCS Adriatic expeditions. He is an expert skipper and must also be one of the world's best chefs, cooking up some incredible dishes with limited facilities for 6 hungry volunteers, his cigarette ash does occasionally drop in the pot, but it all adds to the flavour, or so Richard keeps telling us!

Daytime chumming produced very little shark activity but the chum bags were periodically investigated by baitfish, small ray, squid and garfish. Seagulls would occasionally dive into the slick for their free sardine bits, and tuna and Bonito would sometimes spectacularly breach just a few hundred yards from the boat. It wasn't until nightfall however that we saw what we'd come all this way for.

At about 10pm on the first night in our target area the first juvenile Blue shark appeared and within 45 minutes there were three more swimming in the chum slick. Encounters continued late into the night with Richard and Ozgur (our Turkish filmmaker) capturing surface and underwater footage, whilst the rest of us filled out the data sheets to record exactly what we were observing.

Our last Blue sighting was at 6.30am, just as dawn was beginning to break. It had certainly been a long but incredible evening and everyone onboard was delighted with the results. Unfortunately as the weather conditions were rapidly deteriorating we were forced to run for shelter and return to port. The following day the weather was too poor to put to sea, but on the third day conditions started to improve and we returned to Kornati to resume the research. We managed to chum for seven hours and sighted two more young Blue sharks before the weather, which was by now bitterly cold, again forced us back ashore.

In total during the course of 25 hours of chumming ten individuals were encountered. All of these were less than a metre in length and there were no mature adults sighted. The data has now all been passed on to Alen who we hope will be able to use it to gain protection for these vulnerable young animals."

*Andy Sweeney*



The Adriatic 2009 Expedition team



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members@sharkconsoc.com  
www.sharkconsoc.com

## ONLINE SHOP

As many of you are aware the online shop is now up and running and is attracting significant interest so thank you to all of you who have bought anything. Aside from the usual range of t-shirts, mugs, keyrings and books we have some new editions to the range which are worth checking out especially with Christmas now getting close! They are as follows:

- SCS Parker pen - £6.99 inc. p & p.
- DVD "Diving with Sharks" by Danny & Cathie Aslan - £6.50 inc. p & p.  
See earlier in the newsletter for a full description
- DVD "World's Richest Sharks (roughcut excerpts)" by SCS - £5.99 inc. p & p.
- Unique footage from the Kuwait and Qatar SCS expeditions including the incredibly rare underwater film of the Green Sawfish shot in Qatar.
- SCS Ice Pens - £1.50 inc. p & p.
- New book by Richard Peirce, "Pirates of Devon & Cornwall" - £6.99 inc. p & p.  
(Can be signed and personalised on request)
- SCS Christmas cards £5.75 inc. p & p.
- SCS 2010 Calendars at £6.50 inc. p & p.

All profits from the shop go straight back into enabling us to continue our work so please do pay the shop a visit.

## RENEWAL DATES

One final plea is please don't forget to renew your subscriptions when they become due. The Board has again decided not to increase supporter rates and they will remain at £20/year for RSs and £10/year for Friends. We really do rely on you for your continued support without which we would be unable to carry on our work. The growth of the Society this year has been quite incredible and SCS has got a reputation around the world that we should all be truly proud of.



### Shark Conservation Society

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Silvertip shark – taken by Chris Carroll in Fiji, June 2009

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the newsletter and thanks again to all those who have contributed not only do you make my life easier, but you also make the whole thing look much more exciting. It is great to have supporter involvement and don't forget it's your Society so anyone who has any ideas or contributions for the next issue please get in touch with me at the e-mail address below.

From myself and the rest of the Board our warmest wishes for the festive season and the New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in 2010.

*Mark Boothman*  
markpboothman@gmail.com

PS. Don't forget to e-mail the office at [members@sharkconsoc.com](mailto:members@sharkconsoc.com) with your yes or no vote on the following motion:

"Well managed shark eco-tourism run with the highest regard for the safety of both humans and sharks, and based on best practice guidelines is good for shark conservation, and helps promote awareness of this often misunderstood group of animals".



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