

Elasmobranch Taxon Advisory Group



Elasmobranch TAG News



No 1 March 2017

Introduction

The first 'Elasmobranch TAG News' issue is to keep you updated on the whereabouts of the European Elasmobranch TAG. The plan is to have two issues per year. Within the Elasmobranch TAG a lot of things are happening, so a few subjects will be standard, e.g. overview of the management programs, changes in program coordinators and vacancies. Also I would like to ask readers to send in interesting elasmobranch news. The last few years have shown an incredible change in elasmobranch management within European public aquaria. This is all thanks to the program coordinators, and to all the participants of the programs. I am really thankful to be part of these changes and thankful to you all for your enthusiastic participation. I do hope a better population management will increase the captive breeding and the husbandry standards. Since it's a first issue a short introduction will be given on the elasmobranch TAG.

Max Janse

Chair Elasmobranch TAG



Elasmobranch TAG an introduction

The Elasmobranch Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) is a joint initiative of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA; www.eaza.net) and European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC;

www.euac.org), officially started in 2013. The elasmobranch TAG is officially a sub-TAG of the Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate TAG (FAITAG), which includes other sub-TAGs like Freshwater Teleost TAG, Marine Teleost TAG and Jellyfish TAG. The elasmobranch TAG has a large number of breeding programs (an overview is given below).



Currently two types of programmes are defined and used on captive elasmobranchs: 1. European Studbook (ESB) and 2. Monitoring program (MON-P). An ESB manages the population on an individual level (with special software to register each animal). Recommendations are made within the ESB on animal transfers to maintain a genetically healthy population. A less stringent form of collection management is the MON-P, which manages species at the population level. Each ESB and MON-P is managed by one coordinator with the responsibility for collecting data and reporting on husbandry and health issues of the species. Currently 9 ESB and 31 MON-P programmes are defined.

Don't forget!!!

Midyear meeting FAITAG

at London Zoo, UK

May 17 and 18th, 2017

During this meeting the next steps in breeding programs will be discussed. Both in plenary meetings and small workgroups on the different sub-TAGS (Marine teleosts, freshwater teleost, jellyfish and elasmobranchs)

For further info please contact: b.zimmerman@zsl.org



EAZA annual conference 2017

at Wildlands Adventure Zoo, Emmen, The Netherlands

September, 19-23th, 2017

Please check:

<http://www.eaza.net/events/eaza-annual-conference-2017/>



EUAC conference 2017

at Royal Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, The Netherlands

October 23-27th, 2017

Please check: www.burgerszoo.com/euac2017



Organisation of the Elasmobranch TAG

The TAG consists of a large number of coordinators and a steering committee. The steering committee has 7 members: 3 ESB representatives; 3 MON-P representatives and a co-chair:

Max Janse (Royal Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, Netherlands) – m.janse@burgerszoo.nl (co-chair)

Katy Duke (The Deep, Hull, UK) – katy.duke@thedeep.co.uk (MON-P)

Nuria Baylina (Oceanário de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal) – nbaylina@oceanario.pt (ESB)

Chris Brown (Sea Life, Weymouth, UK) – chris.brown@merlinentertainments.biz (ESB)

Renaud Herbert (Nausicaá, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France) – humboldt@nausicaa.fr (MON-P)

Jean-Denis Hibbitt (Sea Life, Weymouth, UK) – jean-denis.hibbitt@merlinentertainments.biz (ESB)

Marion Wille (AquaZoo, Dusseldorf, Germany) – marion.wille@duesseldorf.de (MON-P)

News from *Carcharhinus melanopterus* ESB

Chris Brown: Exciting news regularly comes into the black tip reef shark ESB because of the large population size (274 sharks listed within the studbook in 2015). Different institutions are breeding this species regularly so about once a month we hear news of either a mating, birth or updates of pups. Some teams manage to capture the mating on video camera which is really useful and can help with the identification of parents later. Please see the link to a spectacular mating video of black tip reef sharks in Universeum AB, Göteborg, Sweden:

<https://youtu.be/pOSypobqLCE>

The focus is really on making the resulting births more successful and the more we share information the more we learn, to join the *Carcharhinus melanopterus* studbook please email:

blacktipreefshark@merlinentertainments.biz



Elasmobranch census

Within the TAG it's important to know the changes overtime in the European captive population. A census was sent out to 200+ public aquaria in the beginning of 2016. A similar census was done in 2011. 110 Aquaria replied. The census result showed that 107 elasmobranch species can be found in European zoos and public aquaria, accounting for 10.3% of all species found in the wild.

44.9% of the captive population of species are reproducing in captivity. A report is made on the census and in 2017 a publication will be written on the results of the census in Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research (JZAR). In 2017 another census will be sent out as part of a worldwide census in collaboration with American Association of Zoos and Aquaria (AZA).

Coordinator changes in 2016

First of all thank you to all coordinators for the work they have done in the last year. New coordinators in 2016 are:

Dasyatis americana (MON-P) –

James Robson (London Aquarium)

Carcharhinus plumbeus (ESB) –

Laura Castellano (Aquario di Genova)

Hemiscyllium ocellatum (MON-P) –

Tom Rowe (The Deep)

Rhinobatos rhinobatos (MON-P) –

Renaud Herbert (Nausicaá)

Rhinoptera bonasus (MON-P) –

David Garcia (Sea Life Konstanz)

Sphyrna lewini (MON-P) –

Lars Olsen (Den Blå Planet)

Sphyrna tiburo (MON-P) –

Fiona Smith (SeaLife Weymouth)

Squatina squatina (MON-P) –

Chris Smith (Deep Sea World)

The name of the ESB *Aetobatus narinari* changed to ESB *Aetobatus ocellatus*. A genetic study showed all animals with the studbook belonged to *A. ocellatus*.

Program vacancies

Still a few programs are vacant. For those interested please contact Max Janse:

Pteroplatytrygon violacea

Torpedo marmorata



Where to look for a shark or ray?

When you are looking for a new shark or ray for your institutional collection please check the list of programs and contact the coordinator. He/she has a good overview of all the animals within European Public Aquaria and might know of surplus. Also the coordinator is the person to contact on husbandry and health questions.

Overview Elasmobranch programs within the European Elasmobranch TAG

European studbook (ESB)

<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Max Janse	Royal Burgers' Zoo	m.janse@burgerszoo.nl
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Chris Brown	Sea Life Weymouth	chris.brown@merlinentertainments.biz
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Laura Castellano	Acquario di Genova	lcastellano@costaedutainment.it
<i>Heterodontus francisci</i>	Alex Huiberse (proposed)	Artis Amsterdam Zoo	a.huiberse@artis.nl
<i>Neotrygon kuhlii</i>	Daniel Abed Navandi	Haus des Meeres	daniel.abed@haus-des-meeres.at
<i>Pristis microdon</i>	Katy Duke	The Deep	katy.duke@thedeep.co.uk
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Katy Duke	The Deep	katy.duke@thedeep.co.uk
<i>Stegostoma fasciatum</i>	Silvia Lavorano	Acquario di Genova	slavorano@costaedutainment.it
<i>Taeniura lymna</i>	Nuria Baylina	Oceanrio de Lisboa	nbaylina@oceanario.pt

Monitoring program (MON-P)

<i>Atelomyxerus marmoratus</i>	Marion Wille	Aqua Zoo Dusseldorf	marion.wille@duesseldorf.de
<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	James Wright	National Aquarium	james.wright@national-aquarium.co.uk
<i>Dasyatis americana</i>	James Robson	London Aquarium	james.robson@londonaquarium.co.uk
<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>	Martijn van der Veer	Rotterdam Zoo	m.van.der.veer@rotterdamzoo.nl
<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Nicole Kube	Meeresmuseum Stralsund	nicole.kube@meeresmuseum.de
<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>	Claudia Gili	Acquario di Genova	cgili@costaedutainment.it
<i>Hemiscyllium ocellatum</i>	Tom Rowe	The Deep	tom.rowe@thedeep.co.uk
<i>Himantura uarnak</i>	Graham Hill	The Deep	graham.hill@thedeep.co.uk
<i>Hydrolagus colliei</i>	Nicolas Hirel	Aquarium Marenostrom	nicolas.hirel@aquariummarenostrom.fr
<i>Mustelus asterias</i>	Nicole Kube	Meeresmuseum Stralsund	nicole.kube@meeresmuseum.de
<i>Mustelus mustelus</i>	Nicole Kube	Meeresmuseum Stralsund	nicole.kube@meeresmuseum.de
<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>	Aspasia Sterioti	Creteaquarium	aspasia@her.hcmr.gr
<i>Potamotrygon falkneri</i>	Marion Wille	Aqua Zoo Dusseldorf	marion.wille@duesseldorf.de
<i>Potamotrygon leopoldi</i>	Frank Muller	Tierpark Hellabrunn	frank.mueller@hellabrunn.de
<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>	Javier Gonzalez	Acuario Zaragoza	dtecnico@acuariodezaragoza.com
<i>Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum</i>	Lilian Csehó	Zoo Budapest	cseho@zoobudapest.com
<i>Pteromyxerus bovinus</i>	Aspasia Sterioti	Creteaquarium	aspasia@her.hcmr.gr
<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	Guido Westhoff	Tierpark Hagenbeck	guido.westhoff@hagenbeck.de
<i>Raja brachyura</i>	Monique Timmner	Dolfinarium Harderwijk	monique.timmner@dolfinarium.nl
<i>Raja clavata</i>	Rune Kristiansen	Kattegatcentret	rk@kattegatcentret.dk
<i>Raja microocellata</i>	Monique Timmner	Dolfinarium Harderwijk	monique.timmner@dolfinarium.nl
<i>Raja montagui</i>	Georgia France	Longleat Safari and Adventure Park	georgiaevefrance@gmail.com
<i>Raja undulata</i>	Jean-Denis Hibbitt	Sea Life Weymouth	jean-denis.hibbitt@merlinentertainments.biz
<i>Rhina ancylostoma</i>	Emma Rees	Sea Life Weymouth	emma.rees@merlinentertainments.biz
<i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>	Renaud Herbert	Nausicaa	humboldt@nausicaa.fr
<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Renaud Herbert	Nausicaa	humboldt@nausicaa.fr
<i>Rhinoptera bonasus</i>	David Garcia	Sea Life Konstanz	david.garcia@merlinentertainments.biz
<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>	Ron Bernhard	Rotterdam Zoo	ron.bernhard@rotterdamzoo.nl
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Lars Olsen	Den Blaa Planet	iso@denblaaplanet.dk
<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>	Fiona Smith	Sea Life Weymouth	fiona.smith@merlinentertainments.biz
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Chris Smith	Deep Sea World	chrissmith@deepseaworld.co.uk
<i>Triakis semifasciata</i>	Isabel Koch	Wilhelma Zoo Stuttgart	isabel.koch@wilhelma.de