





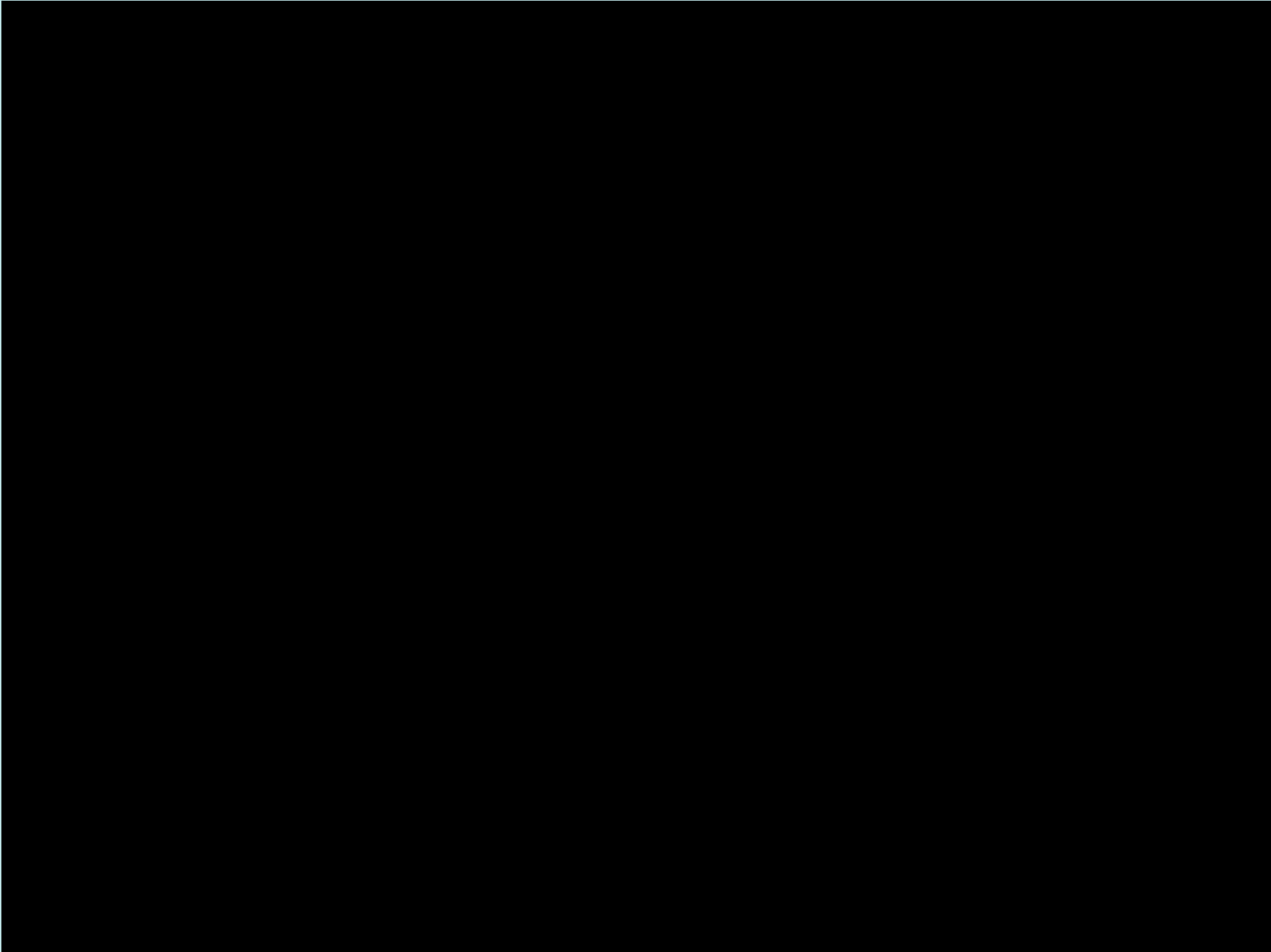


Micronesian Shark Foundation
 *Palau*

**Palau's first long-term shark research program
Sponsored by MSF, Prof. Lobel and Shell Palau**

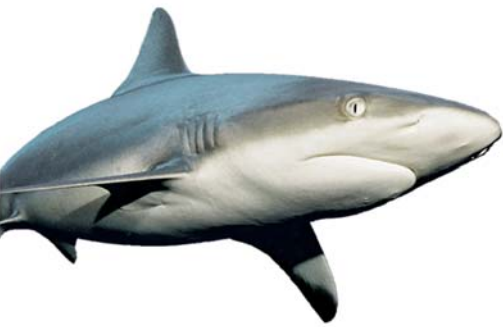
Key questions that lead to the foundation of MSF Palau

-  Sharks seen at dive sites, do they reside in Palau permanently?
-  If and when they leave, where do they go?
-  Every spring we witness the arrival of large schools of sharks, where do they come from and for what purpose?
-  Do sharks avoid dive sites because of divers?



Why is it important to find answers?

- We at MSF assume that the sharks of Palau travel at certain times to other locations in the region.
- If sharks leave the protected water of Palau, they are vulnerable in spite of the great effort to protect them made by the president and government of Palau and local and international agencies.
- MSF believes that pelagic conservation should be a regional effort in order to protect the migrating species.
- Having reliable scientific data about the shark habitat and migration will demonstrate that shark protection must be a regional effort.



Objectives of the Micronesian Shark Foundation:

Long-term shark research and study to assist shark protection and environmental awareness in Micronesia and Palau.

Goals:

1. To establish a long term program for shark research and study in Palau.
2. To create and assist similar foundations in other parts of Micronesia.
3. To develop scientific tools to protect the prime dive sites of Palau.
4. To reduce the threats to Palau's shark population through MSF's research.
5. To make Palau synonymous with shark study, shark protection, and environmental awareness.



History of MSF

- 2002: Tova Har-El and Navot Bornovski owners of Fish 'n Fins dive shop, Ocean Hunter 1 and 2 liveboards founded the Micronesian Shark Foundation.
- 2003: MSF contacted shark expert Prof. Phil Lobel, who collaborated with Greg Marshall from National Geographic society to conduct the first Crittercam study in Palau.
- February/March 2003/04/05: MSF and President Remengesau hosted the Annual SHARK WEEK PALAU.
- February 2003-Present: Tagging sharks, deploying loggers, collecting and analyzing data.

Future plans:

- To continue and expand shark research and study in Palau.
- To share data collected by MSF with local agencies and government.
- To expand the geographical area covered by the research.
- To research for DNA resemblance with neighboring islands to study migration patterns.
- To secure funds to continue the research and study.

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