



PRESS RELEASE

Rainebow Recaptured

Passengers aboard Undersea Explorer were treated to an extraordinary experience last week when, Rainebow, a 15-year old female Tiger Shark was recaptured and retagged as part of Undersea Explorer's Remote Far Northern Expedition (24/11 – 3/12).

She was captured at Raine Island, the world's largest Green turtle rookery, in the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef. Shark researcher and filmmaker Richard Fitzpatrick, is conducting research into possible migration patterns of Tiger sharks that may coincide with the summer nesting of Green turtles. This project is a joint project between Richard Fitzpatrick from the Australian Natural History Unit, CSIRO and Undersea Explorer.

This is the first recapture as part of this project. She was caught in the very same area exactly one year apart! The recapturing was significant because they now know that there are no detrimental effects on the shark with tagging. There was only a little bit of algae on the tags antennae. This new type of tag, called a Splash Tag, can now not only plot the shark's movements, but also get a depth profile so that we can learn about their diving capabilities.

Last year, Rainebow (a female shark) was 3.2metres. When captured this year she measured 3.68 metres and is estimated to be 15 years old.

In the last week, Rainebow has had a few readings so far. She is still around Raine Island and has dived to 400m! Rainebow's movements can be followed at our website: www.sharkresearch.com or www.thereefchannel.com.

There will be a 2 hour special on this subject on the Discover Channel next year in August.

For more information:

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