

A new web-based shark tagging information system

A shark tagging information system (STAGIS) has been launched on SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme website and can be accessed (for free) at <http://www.spc.int/ofp/shark/index.php>.

This database was populated by contributions from numerous shark researchers (who generously gave information and time to support this effort) and by a literature review conducted by SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme.

STAGIS contains meta-data (i.e. data about data) for approximately 200 shark-tagging studies (more than 80,700 tags deployed on over 60 shark species in the Pacific). It is hoped that this information will help shark researchers to better understand the current status of shark tagging research in the Pacific. In addition to supporting the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission stock assessments of key shark species (to be conducted by SPC in late 2011), STAGIS can assist in highlighting issues for further research, facilitating research collaboration, and identifying critical habitats.

To familiarise themselves with the database, users may wish to read and follow the text on the "What's in STAGIS?" webpage, which describes how to search the database in four different ways. This will lead users through the main features of STAGIS and allow them to then explore other areas and features of interest.

Despite attempts to develop an information system that is as complete as possible, there may be omissions, inaccuracies or mistakes that have inadvertently been included in STAGIS. Users are encouraged to provide feedback on the system as well as the data, and to contribute new information to ensure that STAGIS is a vibrant and useful tool.

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Aquaculture Section bids farewell to Antoine Teitelbaum

SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme bids farewell to one of its dedicated staff members, Antoine Teitelbaum, who left SPC at the end of August this year. Antoine had been the Aquaculture Officer (Mariculture) since October 2006 and was instrumental in assisting SPC with developing the region's aquaculture sector. His contribution to the growth of SPC's Aquaculture Section was immense and he leaves behind the challenges for a new successor to fill his shoes.

Antoine has a passion for aquaculture development of ornamental species, and plans for his next life will partly focus on this area.

Staff of the Coastal Fisheries Programme wish Antoine the very best in his future plans, and look forward to continue working with him on other projects.

