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Black Tip Reef Shark Breeding and Research

SEA LIFE coordinates the European black tip reef shark breeding program (studbook), currently monitoring 199 black tip reef sharks across 42 European aquariums for the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA). Over the last two years 7 black tip reef shark pups have been born in European SEA LIFE centres. It is hoped these sharks will eventually produce the first generation of captive bred offspring thus confirming captive breeding not only as a means of stocking future aquariums but also for any future reintroduction programmes to replenish wild stocks. Black tips are not classified as endangered but some small localised populations have been decimated by the shark finning industry. SEA LIFE centres are not only building a strong, genetically healthy population but are also contributing to research into the reproductive biology and life history of the species. This research will have positive impacts on the protection of the species in the wild and there are currently a number of SEA LIFE led scientific papers being published using information and data learnt from the black tip breeding program.