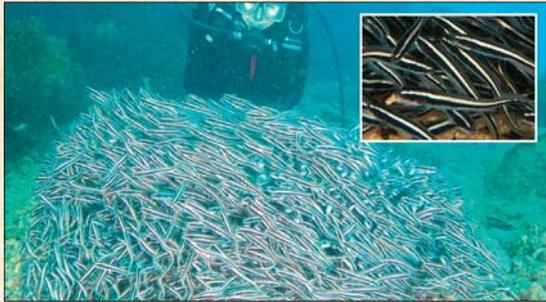


PAPUA NEW GUINEA EXPEDITION

Underwater TV: Convict fish behavior at sunrise and sunset in coral reefs

*In January 2006, consummating seven years of studying the behavior of *Pholidichthys leucotaenia* ("convict fish"), Dr. Eugenie Clark carried Wings WorldQuest Flag #2 to Papua New Guinea to film an underwater television documentary in the coral reefs. Eugenie wanted to show the dazzling spectacle of over 4,000 juvenile convict fish swarming out of their tunneled burrows at dawn and swarming as they return each day, moments before sunset, to rejoin their parents, who maintain the tunnels but are rarely seen.*



Juveniles congregate 7.3 meters under Samarai Dock. [Photo: Dinah Halstead]

EXPEDITION TECHNIQUES

During her previous six expeditions to Papua New Guinea, Eugenie had worked with as many as twelve research divers at a time. For this trip, she worked only with a team from NHK (Nippon Hoso Kyokai) Television and Dr. Stephen Kogge, who designed an endoscopic camera that could probe deep into the tunnels under the coral reefs. He also devised a special air-lift to collect fish and mollusks from within the tunnels.

A ROYAL AUDIENCE FOR THE CONVICT FISH

Eugenie was honored to receive a request from the Emperor of Japan, a fellow ichthyologist, to discuss her discoveries. She visited his Tokyo palace and previewed the NHK program for him and the Empress. Eugenie also told the Emperor and the Empress about a new species of symbiotic bivalve mollusk she had retrieved from the convict fish burrows.

Visit Eugenie's website:

www.sharklady.com

Click on her June 2005 National Geographic link to read about the private lives of convict fish

ABOUT DR. EUGENIE CLARK

Dr. Eugenie Clark, the winner of the 2005 Wings WordQuest's Lifetime Achievement Award, is a famed ichthyologist and marine biologist. From her base at the University of Maryland, she has led over 200 dive expeditions to study sand fishes, whale sharks, and deep-sea sharks over the last 50 years. Eugenie has conducted over 71 submersible dives as deep as 12,000 feet. She has published extensively and is known to many readers and TV viewers as "The Shark Lady."

EXPEDITION SPONSORS

NHK Television
University of Maryland Foundation

Dr. Eugenie Clark holds Wings WorldQuest Flag #2 in the midst of thousands of swarming juvenile convict fish at Kwato Island. [Photo: Dr. Stephen Kogge]



At left, expedition dive sites in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea



WHO

Dr. Eugenie Clark

WHAT

Dive to record the behavior of the convict fish

WHERE

Samarai and Kwato Islands, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

WHY

To create a television program about the unusual group behavior of juvenile convict fish