

PROJECT HIU

**PROJECT HIU
IMPACT REPORT**

**2020-
2022**

INTRODUCTION

In late 2022, a captain we have come to know and love during our time in Indonesia, was nearly killed when a hammerhead dragged him into the water via a hook that penetrated his hand. He was dragged to 20 meters deep repetitive times, getting brief moments to gasp for air in-between until the line attached to the hook finally snapped. He described to me thinking that in one more minute, he would be dead, and in that moment he thought of his family, and who would take care of them.

The two months following this incident, whilst his hand was healing, he spent working for Project Hiu. As a captain, he led the first ever shark research expedition to occur on the population of sharks he usually targets. The second shark to be tagged, a small female, was named Samara, for his daughter. Like many of the men we work with whose livelihoods and families depend on the fishing of sharks, he could have been considered responsible for taking our last wild animals from us. However Project Hiu is changing that story, not just for the fisherman, who now must be recognised for their contribution to their future conservation, but also for the future generations of coastal fishing communities who depend on the ocean for their livelihoods.

Project Hiu's ability to create change here in Lombok is made possible by one thing only, the recognition that on the day of the accident, there were two victims in the water. The vulnerable shark species being hunted to extinction... and the men driven to near death situations to supply a disconnected consumer with shark fins.

Here are the ways we tried to shape the future for both in the year 2021-2022.



68%

Of the shark trade in the Lombok based market, dropped the first quarter of the 2020, due to Covid 19.



COVID 19 & IT'S IMPACT

In early 2020, our Project Hiu team left Indonesia with only a few hours to spare before Australia introduced an international travel lock down as the Covid 19 pandemic escalated. At this time, like many, we were unaware of what was to unfold, and the serious and prolonged impact it was to have on our work in Lombok. In 2019 Project Hiu had kept a shark fishing boat out of the water through tourism for an entire year. This effort saved a potential 1200 sharks. The global Covid 19 pandemic was about to put a halt to this progress, and threaten our dreams.

The rapid onset of Covid and the subsequent restrictions it placed on travel, left us shocked at the scenario we now faced - a complete halt to tourism, with no foreseeable resumption of travel. The absence of tourists, and the inability of the Project Hiu team to remain in Indonesia, left our fisherman without an adequate income to support their families, so back to shark fishing (some of the boys) went. The infancy of Project Hiu, and the intensely time consuming nature of developing this project, had left us without opportunity to plan for sustainable income options incase of the absence of tourists in our shark fishing boats. We were left to watch our fisherman grapple with this terrible reality, to make a return to the industry that they desired to leave behind - because they had no other choice. This situation was a clear reminder to us that our project was still in its early stages of development, and that change takes time and does not happen overnight.

In the first quarter of 2020, we the saw trade volume of fins drop by 68% in the Lombok shark markets. This didn't last long, it would be back to business as usual shortly after, with demand strong as ever. Shark fins in Lombok are typically sold for 400,000 rupiah (\$26.50) per kilogram. When these same fins reach Hong Kong, they can sell for 1000USD per kilogram! Exploitation of the fishermen at its finest!

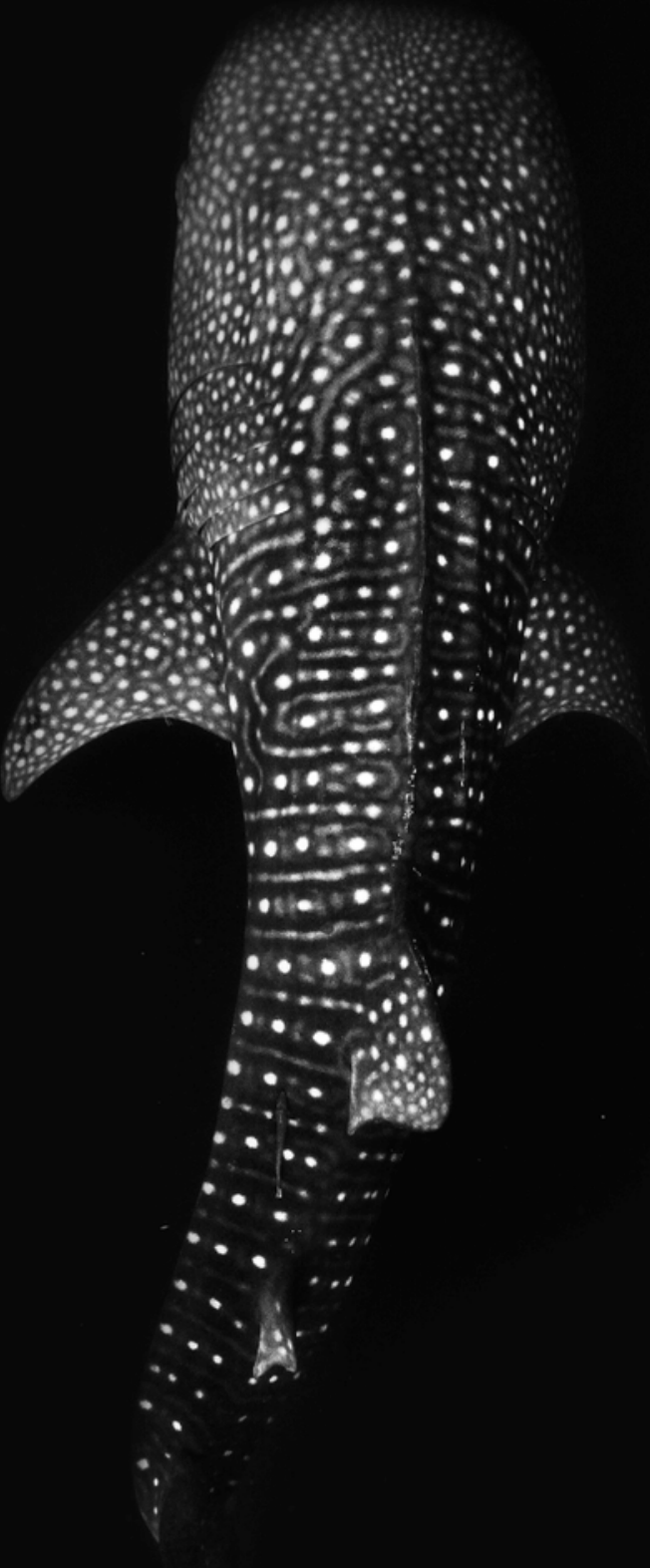
Project Hiu founder, Maddison Stewart, returned to Indonesia after receiving exemptions to travel. She arrived during the peak of fishing season, and was fortunately able to distract a boat from fishing - despite a price increase in shark fins of 20%! It was during this time that we became aware that the primary motivation for fishing for most men, was to cover the school and university fees for their children. And thus, the Project Hiu school scholarship program was born.

**DURING COVID WE
DISTRACTED A BOAT
FROM FISHING FOR
THREE MONTHS TO
SCOUT NEW TOURISM
OPPORTUNITIES.**

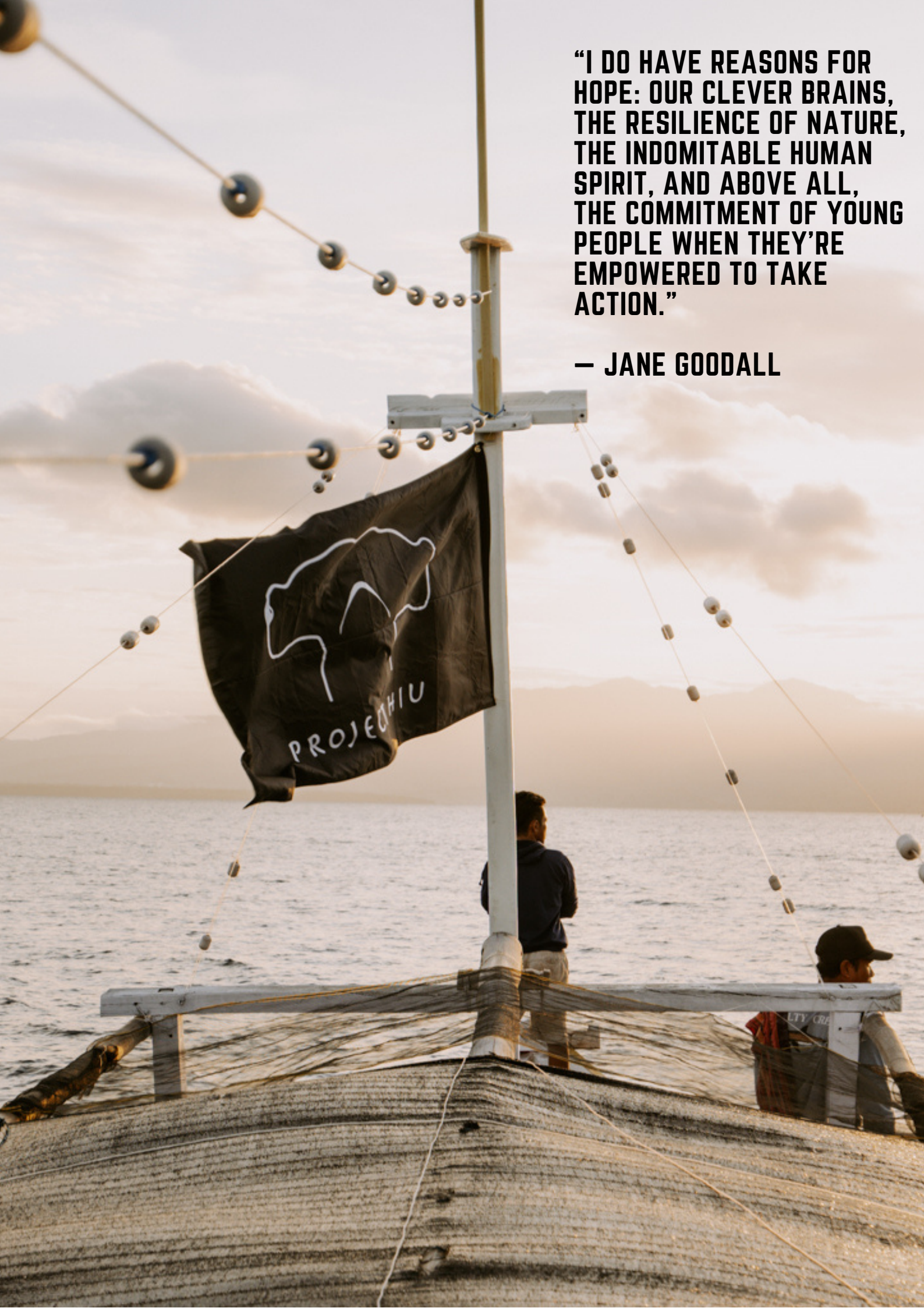


**A DISTRESSING SIGHT OF THE
CATCH OUR BOATS ARE
CAPABLE OF. DOCUMENTING
THIS GIVES US A VISUAL IDEA
OF THE KIND OF SLAUGHTER
WE CAN PREVENT WHEN WE
DISTRACT OUR BOATS FOR A
MONTH.**

Project Hiu is committed to exploring Lombok and its surrounds for potential areas for tourist visitation, in particular the opportunity to view live sharks. In 2021 we took our fleet captain and vessel **Raraditiya** with a crew of six shark fishermen, to a neighbouring island that is well known for Whale sharks. This journey took more than a day and required much deliberation in regard to working with local operators, fuel prices & safety of the whale shark population. When we arrived, we hired a local operator to lead to us to the site. Once Raraditiya was tied up, we then got our entire crew of fisherman into the water- and for the first time ever our shark fishermen were swimming with sharks. The expedition was very successful and with further time, dialogue and ongoing development of relationships, Project Hiu hopes to offer tourists the opportunity to access whales hark trips, using our shark fishing boats. Replacing the fishing of sharks, with viewing or swiming with live sharks and supporting the local Lombok community to experience the economical and environmental value of this, remains our focus and purpose. There is much to do to achieve this.



FISHermen MEETING SHARKS



“I DO HAVE REASONS FOR HOPE: OUR CLEVER BRAINS, THE RESILIENCE OF NATURE, THE INDOMITABLE HUMAN SPIRIT, AND ABOVE ALL, THE COMMITMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN THEY’RE EMPOWERED TO TAKE ACTION.”

— JANE GOODALL

TRACKING SHARK FINS...

The fishery in Lombok where we source our crew, accounts for 10% of the total shark catch in Indonesia, meaning a large mass of sharks are traded through this area. Project Hiu is committed to the filming and photographing the shark fins that are traded in Lombok's fish market. This documentation is important to raise awareness of the scale of the local operations and to also identify the species that make up the trade. For example, In some images we capture a large number of Thresher shark fins. Thresher sharks have a high value, however this is a concerning sight given the fact these sharks are slow to mature and have a low reproductive rate. Currently, thresher sharks are listed as endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Project Hiu also seeks to understand the processing of shark fins and to track the journey of a fin from Lombok markets to Asian markets. The discovery of this particular area where fins are dried (see image) also gives us a better idea of how and when the trade changes through the fins journey. For example, prior to the discovery of this drying center, we were under the impression the shark fins were dried in a nearby city. Transparency of the shark fin trade is also a highly valuable tool in highlighting the exploitation of shark fisherman.

Below, an image shot through a window of an adjacent building.



scan to watch
the story
behind this
image



A NEW UNIVERSITY PROGRAM.



In September 2022, the Project Hiu team met with the headmaster and coordinator administrator of a local University, Lombok Tourism Polytechnics. This is one of six universities in Lombok, but the first of its kind to open on the island. Lombok Tourism Polytechnics focuses on training and preparing students for careers in tourism.

Completion of a degree and a career in tourism, for students from the island of fishermen will support them to access their future employment opportunities around Lombok, that will support a livelihood that is not dependent on shark fishing.

To qualify for a scholarship, each student must meet Project Hiu selection criteria. Within a week of our discussions with the University, we chose our first two students to receive a scholarship - Habil & Haerul. Habil, son of the captain of a shark fishing vessel whose main drive to fish is to pay his school fees. Haerul, crew of a shark fishing vessel on a wage of around \$50AUD for a week of fishing.

On September 15th, they took their first tour of the school to ensure attendance is their dream as well as ours. The families and students were brought to the school to ask questions and tour the facilities. They will enrol & begin their education adventure in January of 2023.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORSHIP

Project Hiu currently offers scholarship funding to four students with the University of Tourism and Hospitality in Lombok. Utilising the direct relationships with the University, Project Hiu will increase this opportunity to a further six island children. To do this, we assess student eligibility using the following criteria..

1

Completion of early learning to a certain level.

2

Desire to attend university (it will be optional for families).

3

Completion of standardised tests required by the University for student attendance.

4

Ability to exist in boarding school without cultural expectations to remain present and care for other family members

5

Meeting with current teachers on the island in regards to a students performance and learning abilities

6

Relation to employed captain contracted with Project Hiu (as a way to incentivise tourism transition and alleviate financial strain that pushes parents into fishing)





HIU

LANGUAGE: BAHASA INDONESIA
SHARK (SCALELESS CARTILAGINOUS FISH)

01

Investigate The Movements of Sharks in Indonesia .


Sub activity: Assessing migration patterns and population status of Tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) and various species within Indonesian waters

ABSTRACT

Indonesian shark fisheries are responsible for some of the world's highest shark catch. Data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, consistently placing the nation within the top three internationally for the amount of shark fisheries products exported. Shark fisheries in Indonesia consist of several species, most of which lack data globally and regionally about their populations, movement patterns and preferred habitats. One such species is the Tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), a tropical species with circumglobal distribution around the world's tropical waters. In this study, eight (8) specimens of *G. cuvier* will be tagged around the island of Lombok using SPOT-258 satellite tags. The tracking devices will monitor for up to 300 days, and will provide data on Tiger shark movement patterns on both fine and broad scales, preferred habits and population estimates for the region. Data will also contribute to larger-scale datasets compiled for the species globally in order to determine where and how Indonesian populations of the species fit in relation to the species as a whole. Commencing this program could assist Indonesian fisheries to better manage decisions relating to this species and others, and support us further to help the transition of island communities to ecotourism-based income and initiatives.

TAGGING TIGER SHARKS

On October 4th, at 8pm, Project Hiu founder, Maidson Stewart, two scientists, two photographers & eleven shark fishermen embarked on trip to attempt something that has never been done before in Indonesia. After nine grueling days on open ocean, we returned, having been the first crew to ever tag tiger sharks in Indonesian waters.

A close-up photograph of a scientist, Chelsea Black, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a grey baseball cap. She is using orange-handled pliers to carefully remove a hook from the mouth of a tiger shark. The shark is held in a net on the side of a boat. Other crew members are visible in the background, also focused on the task. The scene is set on the open ocean under a clear sky.

An image of Chelsea Black, PHD Students of the University of Miami, removing a hook from a tagged shark.

TAGGING TIGER SHARKS

Preparation for the tagging expedition began six months earlier, with recruiting of scientists and undertaking an extensive application process for permits. This behind the scenes work is time consuming and often difficult navigating language barriers and local government processes that are unfamiliar and inefficient.

We met both our boats in East Lombok, Pratama 01 and Pratama 03, both shark fishing vessels that have been in operation for more than 20 years. Each boat has massive capacity for catching sharks, one, Pratama 03, had only returned a week earlier with a catch of more than 30 sharks. During the month of October, both boats would refrain from fishing of the month, and instead help us with researching local sharks that would form the hope for future free of shark fishing for income.

We captured our first Tiger shark, quite late in our expedition. A small male measuring two meters, who we named Surya, meaning "Sun" in Bahasa Indonesia. Surya was secured and had a satellite places into his fin that we will continue to track for as long as it transmits.

The very next day, the last day before we would be forced to turn home due to weather and limitations of time, we caught our second shark! A young female, who we named Samara, after the daughter of the captain of our vessel. We hope the pioneering data from these two sharks will continue for the next six months, or perhaps even longer if we are lucky.



SURYA

MEANING: THE SUN

SAMARA

THE DAUGHTER OF THE CAPTAIN

THIS DATA WILL BE INCREDIBLY SIGNIFICANT FOR TWO REASONS...

1

There is no data on the movements of tiger sharks in Indonesia.

2

It can be used to better focus our efforts to protect important times or areas to the sharks.



The relevance of this research being the first of its kind is heightened by the fact that the shark fishermen themselves made this possible. Abandoning their chance to make money from fishing, showing us their spots and being open to handling a shark for the first time in their life... this gave us a chance to change the future for the vulnerable shark species of Indonesia, and the men who used to fish them.

“There's more to
doing good than
hating evil.”

- Unknown



BUILDING A BATHROOM.

15% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION doesn't have access to a toilet at all, forcing them to defecate in the open.

To support the transition of an island community, that for generations has only fished for income, requires the engagement, trust and acceptance from the whole community. Project Hiu has a wholistic view to support the whole community, not just those families who fish directly for shark.

Since 2018 Project Hiu has been making contributions to the Island school, through provision of learning resources and English lessons. This assists improved educational for future generations, and also shows the whole community that the presence of Project Hiu, and the choice of tourism instead of fishing, is one that benefits everyone. For many years, the school has been asking us to help with a bathroom. So we built one.

Access to improved sanitation means that now the hundreds of school children, who used to leave class to go to the beach to do their business in the sand, have a bathroom of their own. The continuation of our relationship with the fishermen, relies heavily on how we are perceived in the eyes of the community. Shark conservation has only ever been a potential threat to their future, now we are showing that it could mean a better future. For everyone.



772,171

The number of tourists visited Indonesia in 2017 to see sharks alive.

**22 MILLION
USD**

The amount they contributed to the Indonesian economy.

470 SHARKS

The number of sharks one boat catches a year when fishing.

10%

The percentage of the trade attributed to the community where we base our work

**153,000
USD**

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE SAVE THE INDONESIAN ECONOMY PER YEAR BY KEEPING ONE BOAT FROM FISHING SHARKS, THAT ALIVE, ARE VALUABLE TO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY.

We know now thanks to research and data like this, that the value of a shark alive, far exceeds the value of that same shark dead in many parts of the world. This is true for anywhere with a tourism economy that includes the ocean.

We crunched the numbers to see the value of our impact with money spent on decommissioning a boat and employing them in tourism, compared to how much that saves the local economy by preventing the capture of valuable sharks.

WHY TOURISM?

Impact statement 2018-2020

When asked why engage in tourism over fishing when fishing could yield a higher income, the fishermen responded with "accidents happen". A testimony to the dangers they face at sea.



DAY TRIPS

We are moving into the tourism industry with a strong emphasis of self sustaining employment for our fishermen, that doesn't rely on our presence.

MORE BOATS

Project Hiu has three boats contracted, moving forward we want to see a total of three boats on rotation to partake in tourism instead of fishing,

MORE STUDNETS

We begin the search for a further two students to receive scholarships to move them away from a future of fishing and into tourism

WASTE MANAGEMENT

We may have found a solution to this issue, with the connection to an up-cycling bank that will help us move trash off the island. We begin working on this soon.

MORE RESEARCH

We continue our venture into scientific research with the placement of more tags on sharks in high risk areas. Giving us never before collected data.

THE DANGER OF FISHING

With an emphasis on the dangers of fishing, we plan to complete a large scale survey of fishermen to truly understand and then highlight the dangers they face when fishing sharks.

PROJECT COMPLIES WITH THE FOLLOWING 13 OF THE 17 GOALS FROM THE UN...

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Sustainable development goals to transform the world defined by the United Nations.



**A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
MADE THIS ALL POSSIBLE...**

LIL HEROE 'S

NFT'S by Edgar Plans

DISCOVERY

Discovery Channel

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Perth, Western Australia

THE EXPLORERS CLUB

New York, New York, United States,
Founded: 1904



**A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS FEATURED THROUGHOUT
OUR WORK & THIS DOCUMENT..**

TANNER MANSELL

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CARAGH FRASER

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CONNOR TRIMBLE

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RUI LINUS

@funforrui





A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO YOU... FOR SUPPORTING OUR JOURNEY.