

Observations on the Maintenance of Sexually Mature Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks in a Public Aquarium

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The existing collection of Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*) in Ocean Park Hong Kong was acquired from Kagoshima, Japan in November 2009. These sharks have become one of the most iconic species on display since the opening of the Grand Aquarium in 2011.

In the past 9 years, marked growth was recorded in this species, which resides in an exhibit environment with over 160 species including elasmobranchs and teleost fishes. The Hammerhead Sharks (five males and three females) were noted to have displayed mating related behaviours as early as 2013 and mating events were observed since 2015.

In this presentation, we describe the three females' measurements, and behaviours observed in individuals and in a group, and include (1) the period when the females were subjected to mating interest (i.e. the timeline involving trailing behaviors, mating-related bite attempts, inappetence, and copulation), (2) mating interest observed in the males (i.e. chasing and other behaviours observed in group, periods of inappetence, and the sequence of females being targeted as the subject of mating interest within the period), (3) observations on the sequence of mating events, from the trailing behaviour presented by males, which occurred at the beginning of events, to the death of the females. The purpose of outlining the facts mentioned is to foster advancement in husbandry and breeding management of this species under human care.