



Réserve Naturelle de St Barthélemy

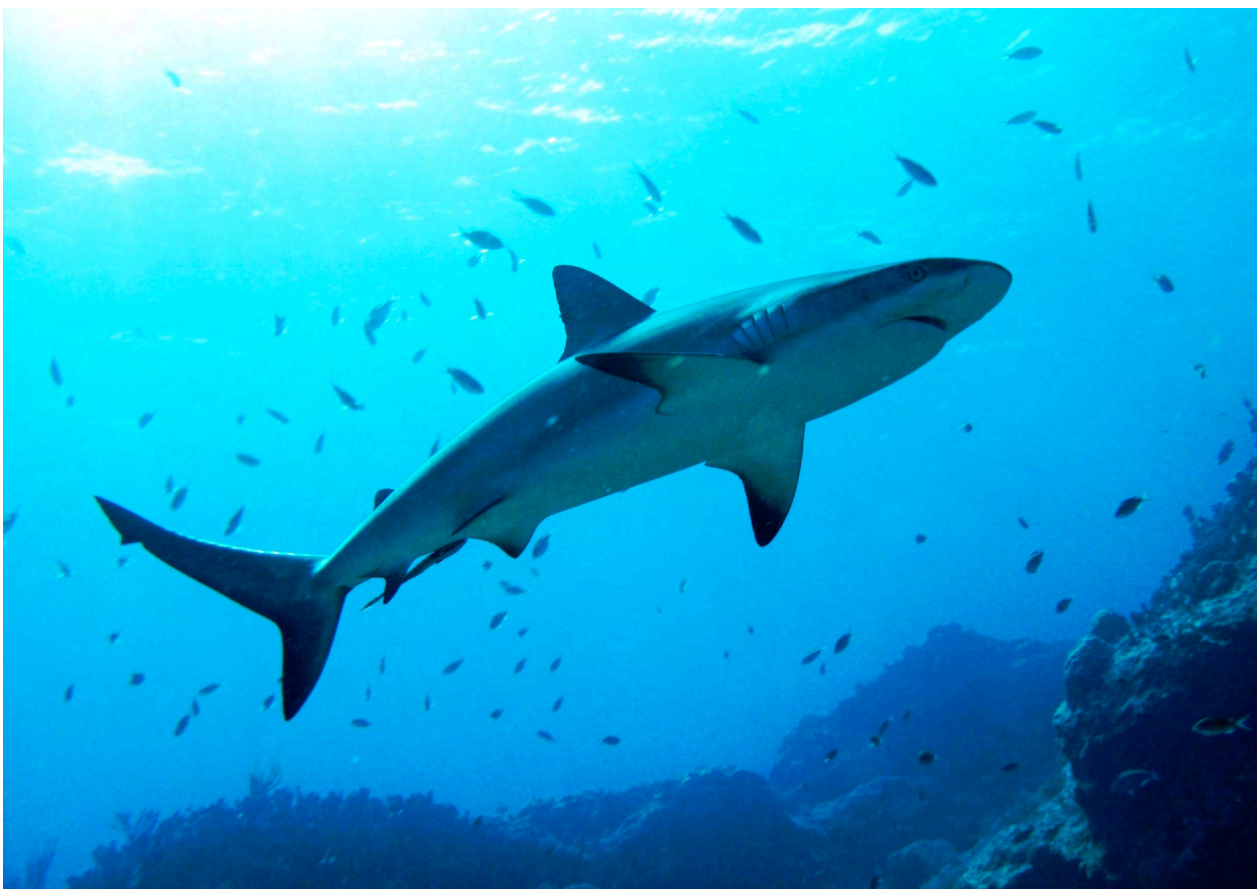
www.reservenaturellestbarth.com

resnatbarth@wanadoo.fr - 0590278818 - 0690317073



December 2011

We have sharks in St Barth, and that's fine!



Beautiful grey reef shark in Sugar loaf, shot by Marc Mangel.

What a surprise to read in a glossy annual publication that there are no sharks in St Barth, despite a cover photo evoking its opposite ... "business is business" but let's tell the truth and add that we must protect them. This predator is particularly useful to the health of the species by attacking the weak fish, it regulates fish diseases, for example. Many shark species are endangered because of overfishing and free killing, and those who are really worried about shark attacks, none has never been reported in St. Barth...Actually, sharks are a highlight for scuba divers around the island.

St Barth's unique environment is often highlighted, we have to be careful to promote it and protect it because it's not only a business case but it's also fragile and vulnerable.

Dogs on the beaches

Dogs are not allowed on the beaches since 1986 and yet you come across every day, alone or accompanied. The reactions are always the same: My dog does not poop on the beach, it does not dig the turtle nests and anyway everyone is ... difficult to accept that his own dog is a dog like any other.

Yet, dogs on beaches are two dangers, and that is why they are prohibited:

- *Worms : When the dog defecates on the beach in the tropics, worms called « larva migrans » can affect humans and especially children. Adults have their feet touched while the little ones who roll in the sand may get it on their face. This worm progresses under the skin, it leaves traces red and itchy painful. For skeptics, just type "Larva Migrans" on Google to get a better idea of the phenomenon, explanations and check images.*
- *Sea turtles: These marine reptiles are very popular and they lay their eggs on the beaches of the island in summer. Emergences happen after about 62 days incubation period ... unless a dog is been there! Their sense of smell allows them to detect the nests and they usually dig it. That's the death of the nest for an average of a hundred baby turtles... Too bad for these animals endangered and protected internationally.*



A dog with collar digging in Petit Cul de Sac in November 2011

Emergence of hawksbill turtles at Guanahani!



Life starts at Guanahani for this Hawksbill. Photo : Ludo bartender L'indigo.

Guests at the bar L'Indigo at Guanahani resort on the evening of November 11 had a very nice surprise with the emergence of a hundred small hawksbill literally at their feet! This is great news because this species of turtle is one of the most endangered. Thank you to the Hotel Guanahani and staff, especially to Ludo, L'indigo's bartender for photos and movies of this emergence.



Photo: F. Le Quellec

Hawksbill turtle while scuba diving in Gros Ilet.

Mission iguana on Saba



Our ranger Karl (in red) with Saba's marine park team.

The Réserve Naturelle responded to the invitation of Saba in the context of regional cooperation in order to discover the famous local black iguana and collect biopsies. These samples will be analyzed in the laboratory and we will learn more about these animals and their distribution in the Caribbean. After samples of St Barth, St Martin and Saba now is a real regional dynamics that starts. The Martinique has just relaunched its program iguana after the program's success that we conducted in St. Barth, Guadeloupe think about it too. This is good news for our local Lesser Antilles Iguana in great danger of extinction. Soon some news of reintroduced iguanas in Fregate and Fourchue!



The shy and famous black iguana of Saba



James, Rob and Karl with an animal

Seabirds



Red footed booby in Gros Ilet.

The Réserve Naturelle has conducted bird counts on two islets and demonstrates that the population of brown booby birds is doing well on the two selected sites: 98 chicks, 196 adults, a total of 294 individuals in small islet of Fourchue and 82 chicks , 164 adults, a total of 246 individuals in Gros Islet.

These counts also showed that the breeding population of red-footed boobies is stable at small islet of Fourchue (two couples) and increases slowly in Gros Islet (three couples). The pelicans are desired, for the moment, only one couple in Gros Islet, work in the Port of Gustavia may disturb them, research on other islets and the coast will be made soon. Among migratory raptors, ospreys are always two as every year, probably the same pair each time, but impossible to tell.

Peregrine falcons are more numerous with four adults and one juvenile.

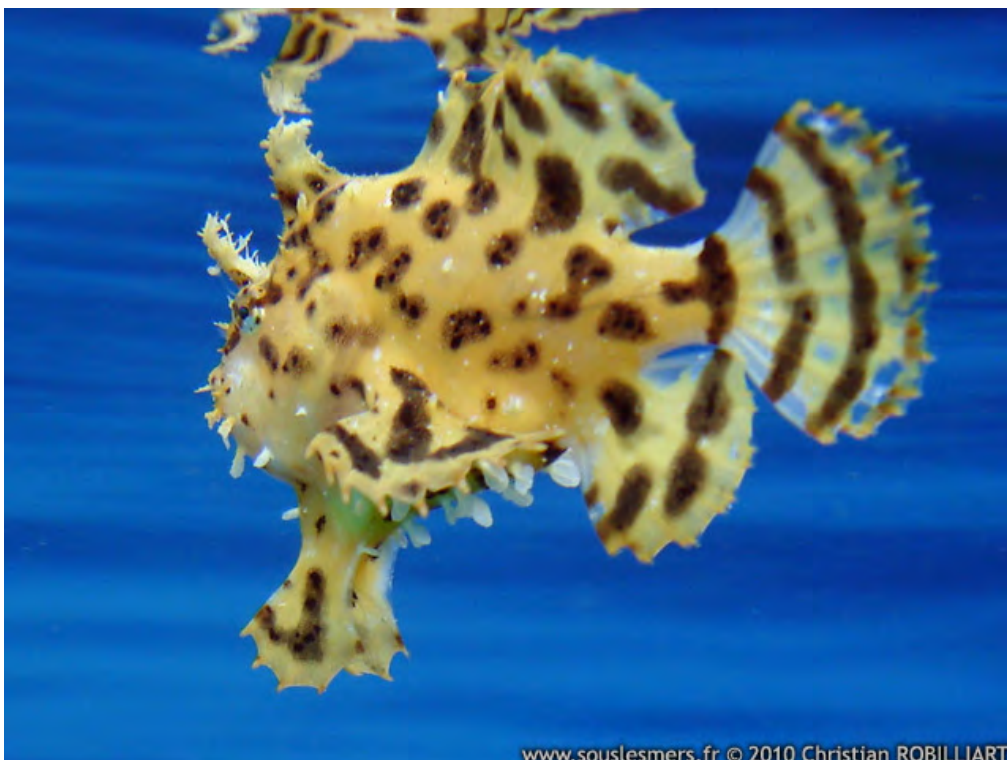
Lionfish

The lion fish thrive in our waters and is now reported all around the island. This fish is an invasive species that takes over many native species. Fearsome predator, carnivore, it eats young fish and swallows a day 20% of its own weight. Ultimately, it is an imbalance of the ecosystem and a proliferation of algae. The Réserve Naturelle has distributed capturing kits to voluntary diving centers. Recall that this fish is not edible as affected by ciguatera and its sting is very dangerous ... Let's fight it!



The lionfish...our enemy.

With Sargassum close to our coast, a fish is often confused with lion fish: Sargassum frog fish. Do not confuse ...



www.souslesmers.fr © 2010 Christian ROBILLIART

Sargassum frog fish...a friend.

Join us on Facebook !

<http://fr-fr.facebook.com/pages/Réserve-Naturelle-St-Barth/281187598570706>

Our Facebook page is updated regularly, where you can find news, movies and photos of our work in St Barth.



Keep your eyes open and call the Réserve Naturelle !

**Thanks to all the volunteers who are calling the Réserve Naturelle,
They are our local observation network !**

Emergency cell: 0690 31 70 73