

~~~~~  
SCUBA News (ISSN 1476-8011)  
Issue 174 - November 2014  
<http://www.scubatravel.co.uk>  
~~~~~

Thank you very much for subscribing to *SCUBA News*. Ever thought of volunteering with a Great White Shark project? Read about it in a fascinating article by Bill Mashek.

Also in this issue, we are pleased to announce our list of the **bestselling diving books and DVDs of 2014**. Last month's interviewee, Beth Tierney, has two entries in the list this year: *Diving the World* (which has just been re-issued) and *Diving Southeast Asia*. See below for the rest of the most popular SCUBA books.

You can [download a pdf version](#) of this newsletter. I hope you enjoy *SCUBA News* but should you wish to cancel your subscription you can do so at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/news.html>. *SCUBA News* is published by SCUBA Travel Ltd.

#### Contents:

- [What's new at SCUBA Travel?](#)
- [Announcing the Diving Bestsellers 2014](#)
- [Like Sharks? Volunteer with Great White Shark Project](#)
- [Diving news from around the world](#)

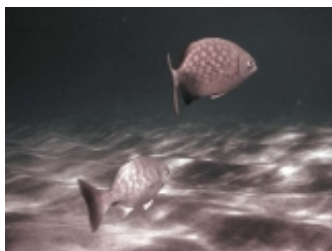


## What's New at SCUBA Travel?



### [Diving Indonesia](#)

A fabulous place for diving with amazing numbers of fish, corals and other invertebrates. More dive sites, photos and a great video by Nick Hope are now at [scubatravel.co.uk/indonesia/indodive.html](http://scubatravel.co.uk/indonesia/indodive.html)



### [Diving Baja California](#)

There is also world-class diving off the peninsula of Baja California, and we've added more dives to [scubatravel.co.uk/baja/bajadive.html](http://scubatravel.co.uk/baja/bajadive.html)

## Top Ten Diving Books and DVDs of 2014

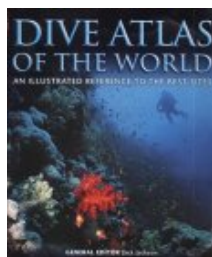
We are pleased to release this year's list of the best selling SCUBA books and

DVDs.

*Dive Atlas of the World* remains at the top: it has been continually in the list since 2003. The excellent *Shipwrecks of the Egyptian Red Sea* is a welcome re-entry after dropping out last year. Newcomer to the list is the *UK Dive Guide*.

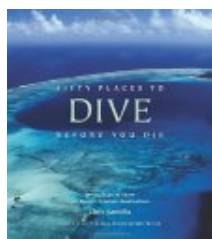
All the books (and the single DVD featured) are either diving or sealife guides. Diving novels, histories and memoirs have fallen out of favour.

Here are the top ten: figures in brackets show the previous year's position. If we've reviewed a book, we link to [the review](#). Otherwise the links go to the cheapest place we've found for you to buy the book.



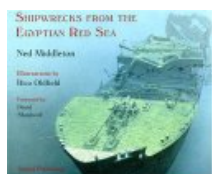
**[1. Dive Atlas of the World: An Illustrated Reference to the Best Sites](#)** by [Jack Jackson](#)

300 pages detailing some of the world's best dive sites. (1)



**[2. Fifty Places to Dive Before You Die: Diving Experts Share the World's Greatest Destinations](#)** by Chris Santella

The fifth in Santella's bestselling "Fifty Places" series. (2)



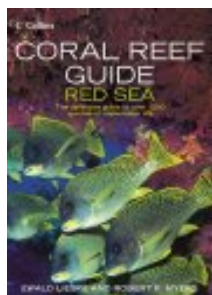
**[3. Shipwrecks from the Egyptian Red Sea](#)** by Ned Middleton

Eight years of research went into this accurate and definitive guide to the wrecks of the Egyptian Red Sea. (--)



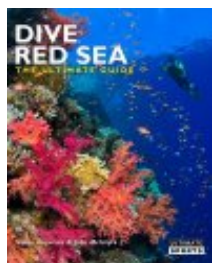
**[4. Diving Southeast Asia](#)** by Beth and Shaun Tierney

Includes over 400 dives in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. (5)



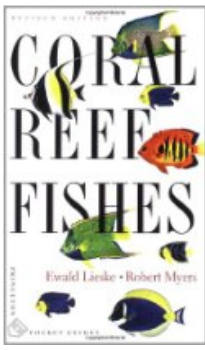
**[5. Coral Reef Guide Red Sea](#)** by Ewald Lieske, Robert Myers

Excellent guide to the fish and invertebrates of the Red Sea. (4)

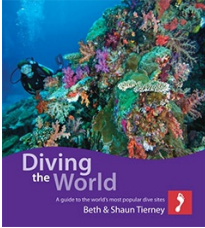


**[6. Dive Red Sea: The Ultimate Guide](#)**

Mainly covers Egypt but also mentions Aqaba, Eilat, Eritrea, Djibouti and Yemen. (--)



7. **Coral Reef Fishes: Indo-Pacific and Caribbean** by Ewald Lieske, Robert Myers  
Another from Lieske and Myers, this goes on all my tropical diving holidays. (3)



8. **Diving the World** by Beth and Shaun Tierney  
Husband-and-wife team Beth and Shaun Tierney are another pair who have two entries in the list. They have selected, reviewed and photographed over 200 tropical sites for *Diving the World*, and released a fully updated and expanded third edition this month. (6)



9. **The World's Best Dive Destinations DVD.**  
Visual SCUBA dive guide to the world's best diving locations (10)



10. **UK Dive Guide: Diving Guide to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales** by Patrick Shier  
Shier describes 100 dives which are shallower than 18 m (presumably to match the PADI open water diver limit). (--)

The [Divers Bestsellers list](#) is also available on the web site.

## Like Sharks? Volunteer with Great White Shark Project

by Bill Mashek  
Gansbaai South Africa

The 1974 film "Jaws" immortalized the Great White but also did more damage to the image of the Great White Shark than they could ever do themselves. Despite all the fear and celebrity, very little is known about these aquatic behemoths. Scientists who have studied *Carcharodon carcharias* (jagged tooth) aren't even sure how they reproduce.

### Facts on Great White Sharks

The legendary Great White Shark "man eating" mythology is more fiction than fact. They are apex predators, but not gratuitous killing machines. They need to be understood and respected rather than be feared.

Great Whites are found Worldwide: cold water, temperate zones to tropical. They seem to prefer temperate coastal seas. Tagging Great Whites has given scientists an idea of their migratory patterns which can exceed thousands of kilometers. They will swim in shallow areas near shore or as deep as 250 meters. Great Whites are the world's largest predatory fish. They can grow up to 20ft (4.6-6.1 meter) and weigh more than 5000 pounds (2,268 kg).



*Great White Shark, Carcharodon carcharias*

Great whites are carnivores. Their preferred diet is whales, sea lions, seals, sea turtles and carrion. People are not part of the Great Whites "culinary cuisine". Most incidents of so called attacks are curiosity bites. Sharks sensory organs are around their mouth and they will often bite an object they are not familiar with and release it. They can sense a few drops of blood up to five kilometers away.

Baby sharks (pups) are born live. They can be up to 1.5 meters at birth and immediately self-sufficient. The pup will leave its mother when born and has a natural instinct to hunt. Great Whites can live up to 70 years.

## **White Shark Projects**

I spent 15 days working as a volunteer at White Shark Projects in Kleinsbaai South Africa. This is an area known to have the highest concentration of Great Whites in the world and the best place to see them in their natural environment.

All the people I met at Shark Projects, including volunteers, staff, and research scientists have a common endearment for sharks, especially the "elusive" Great White. Working as a volunteer was a profound experience.

White Shark Projects works with "eco tourists" and local enthusiasts to help change many of the needless misconceptions as well as the slaughter of over 100 million sharks per year. After reading about White Shark Projects Volunteer program, I knew this was an experience I wanted to be part of.

White Shark Projects was originally founded as a research center. They have expanded as a shark cage diving company which works with the South African Shark Conservancy (SASC). Besides taking folks out on cage dives they also collect data on individual sharks, inclusive of: their size, gender, physical characteristics, migratory patterns, specific markings, tags, and behavior, i.e. curious, feisty, timid and even aloof. They pass this data on to SASC who analyze the information for scientific study.

Being educated in shark biology and conservation, we went to local schools and an orphanage where we shared this information through presentations on these apex predators.



*The shark presentation at the orphanage*

Shark Projects supports [South Africa Shark Conservancy \(SASC\)](#) which is a shark research organization. We spent one day per week at the SASC marine lab listening to lectures and doing field work.

A typical dive day starts at 5:30 am when I got picked up at my guest house. We get all the wetsuits and equipment ready to load. Drive down to the dock and transfer these items to the boat. Some of us will go to the lodge and meet the participants and help them with life jackets and walk them to the boat. Prior to this the participants all meet at the lodge for breakfast and an introductory talk of what they are about to encounter. Some folks are experienced divers and underwater photographers; some never had their head under water. All have a shared curiosity of what they are about to experience. The fun begins when the first sharks appear.



*The Shark Team boat*

Volunteers go through extensive and continuous training including basic seamanship, how to get in and out of the cage and how to remain secure and safe once inside. We learned about data recording, shark tourism, working with

clients, and vigilant shark spotting. Some of the training includes lectures on shark biology and habitat, conservation efforts, shark bite incidents, shark tourism and what to look for in recording data. We spent 2 days, free diving and catching leopard and cat sharks for SASC laboratory. They use these small harmless sharks for research and tagging.

Because of unpredictable ocean conditions, on non-dive days, volunteers will often go on nearby excursions or get involved with the local culture.



*South Africa Shark Conservancy Marine Laboratory*

Shark Projects has set up a recycle program, in the community appropriately named, The Swap Shop. The Swap Shop is a place where the children who bring in recyclable items and trade them for points. They can then use these points to purchase school supplies, toys, clothes, and other items. This program promotes recycling and environmental awareness and well as supplying some basic needs for the children. This is an enriching cultural experience for volunteers.

Volunteers are a crucial part of Shark Projects. One does not have to be a marine biologist to volunteer, though you will be involved with all aspects of the white shark research from boat handling, collecting data, to community involvement and conservations efforts. For information contact:

[www.rubiconadventures.com](http://www.rubiconadventures.com), <http://www.whitesharkprojects.co.za>

Bill Mashek  
Forestville CA 95436  
Photo Credits, Maarten Billen, Bill Mashek

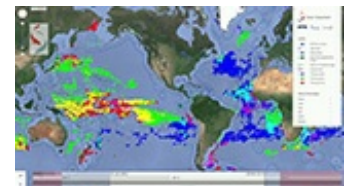
---

## Diving News From Around the World

We've added a "Tweet This" link to our news items this month. Let us know if you find it useful, or if you would rather it wasn't there.

### Live map shows illegal fishing vessels

Oceana, Skytruth and Google have launched The Global Fishing Watch. This can identify individual fishing vessels and track their fishing activity, shining a light on fishing activity worldwide. [[Tweet this](#)]



### China And Russia Block International Plan To Create Antarctic Ocean

## **Sanctuary**

China and Russia have thwarted an international attempt to create the world's largest ocean sanctuary in Antarctica as both nations eye the region's rich reserves of fish and krill. [[Tweet this](#)]



## **Partial ban on dumping sediment in Great Barrier Reef**

Australia has declared that it will ban dumping of sediment in the marine park area of the Great Barrier Reef, but not in the entire World Heritage Site. This matters because in recent years 80% of dumping has been in World Heritage waters just outside the Marine Park. [[Tweet this](#)]

## **failure**

Australian Academy of Science blasts government plan to save Barrier Reef as 'inadequate to achieve the goal of restoring or even maintaining the diminished Outstanding Universal Value of the Reef' [[Tweet this](#)]

## **World wants sustainable seafood**

People around the world are increasingly looking for seafood from a sustainable source, according to new research carried out in 15 developed countries. [[Tweet this](#)]

## **Sex change crustaceans retain some masculinity**

Male crustaceans avoid being completely feminised by pollutant-contaminated seawater as they lock down their maleness. [[Tweet this](#)]



## **Lemon Damsel Fish stay close to home**

Research by marine scientists into Great Barrier Reef fish populations remind us of the need to protect the tiny creatures in a vast ocean. [[Tweet this](#)]



## **Tagged fish easy target for eavesdropping seals**

It's called the "dinner bell" effect. When we tag fish or other animals to track their movements, we may inadvertently be turning them into sitting ducks. A study of captive seals shows that they learn rapidly that fish carrying acoustic tags that periodically "ping" are easier than untagged prey to locate and eat. [[Tweet this](#)]

## **UK hotspots for sharks, dolphins and whales 'need legal protection'**

The threat to dolphins, porpoises, whales and sharks from boat tours, windfarm construction and fishing nets around British shores has prompted conservationists to call for legal protections of hotspots to preserve such marine megafauna. [[Tweet this](#)]



## **Egyptian diver to break another record in February**

Egyptian Guinness World Record holder for deepest scuba dive, Ahmed Gabr, said he will break another world record in February of next year - this time relating to environmental conservation of marine life [[Tweet this](#)]

## **Ignoring international limits: US expands fishing for bigeye tuna**

The National Marine Fisheries Service today issued regulations allowing Hawaii-based longline fishermen to ignore international agreements and continue fishing for bigeye tuna after reaching the cap allowed for U.S. fishing vessels. [[Tweet this](#)]

## **ISFF calls for higher observer coverage in tuna fisheries**

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has released its

position on what it considers to be priorities for Atlantic and Mediterranean tuna fisheries. [[Tweet this](#)]

For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)

---

---

\* Copyright SCUBA Travel - <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/>

\* Reprinting permitted with this footer included.

We are happy for you to copy and distribute this newsletter, and use parts of it on your own web site, providing the above copyright notice is included and a link back to our web site is in place.

Photo credits: [Tim Nicholson](#); Maarten Billen; [Bill Mashek](#)

Previous editions of SCUBA News are archived at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/news.html>

#### SUBSCRIBING AND UNSUBSCRIBING

Visit [UNSUBSCRIBE] and add or remove your e-mail address. To change whether you receive the newsletter in text or HTML (with pictures) format visit [PREFERENCES]

#### ADVERTISING

Should you wish to advertise in SCUBA News, please see the special offers at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/newsad.html>

Other advertising opportunities are at <http://www.scubatravel.co.uk/advertising.html>

#### CONTACTING THE EDITOR

Please send your letters or press releases to:

[Jill Studholme](#)

SCUBA News

The Cliff

Upper Mayfield

DE6 2HR

UK

[news@scubatravel.co.uk](mailto:news@scubatravel.co.uk)

#### PUBLISHER

[SCUBA Travel](#) Ltd, 5 Loxford Court, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6AF, UK