



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sand Tiger Sharks prowl their way to largest showcase at Underwater World Singapore

Singapore, 16 May 2006 - In what would be the world's largest display of ferocious teeth and menacing presence, Underwater World Singapore (UWS) today brought to its visitors, a visually arresting sight of 43 Sand Tiger Sharks. Singaporeans will get a first ever opportunity to come up close with these unique and magnificent creatures flown in from as far as South Africa.

In an unusual move true to the creativity of UWS, the exclusive showcase of the Sand Tiger Sharks was unveiled by a guest just as unique. Renowned shark expert and host of *SHARK GORDON*, Ian Gordon, launched the display with an exciting hand feeding session of the latest addition to the marine family at UWS.

Scientifically known as the *Carcharias taurus*, the Sand Tiger Shark is also known as the Ragged Tooth Shark in South Africa for its permanently exposed rows of dagger like teeth, which enable the easy gripping of prey. Despite their menacing appearance, Sand Tiger Sharks are generally not dangerous to human beings. This trait of the Sand Tiger Shark is probably the reason why it is called the Grey Nurse Shark in Australia.

Found in all temperate and cooler tropical seas worldwide, including waters off Australia, South Africa and the Mediterranean with the exception of eastern Pacific, the Sand Tiger Shark is identified by its large torpedo shaped stocky bodies that can grow up to a length of 3.2 metres. Other unique features of the sand tiger shark include a narrow and flattened snout, two dorsal fins of similar size, and an upper lobe of its tail or caudal fin that has a deep notch and is much longer than the lower lobe. Adults are light brown to grey colour on the above and paler on the underside. Young sharks often have small and dark spots, which fade upon maturity.

The Sand Tiger Sharks are hand fed, thrice daily by the divers at UWS. Their typical diet consists of fishes including herring, snappers, mackerels, small sharks and rays. However, they also feed on crustaceans and cephalopods like squids. As all sharks lack the air bladder that bony fishes have to maintain buoyancy, they would sink when they stop swimming. Sand Tiger Sharks, however, can hover motionless in water for a period of time due to their ability to swallow and expel air at the water surface to adjust their buoyancy. Sand Tiger Sharks are found in large groups when they gather to mate or hunt. They are also known to linger motionless in groups - a social behaviour not observed among other species of sharks.

Dr Jeffrey Mahon, Curatorial Director of UWS commented on the decision to launch the Sand Tiger Sharks, " At Underwater World Singapore, we are constantly looking at creative and noble ways to educate visitors, especially children, on the importance of marine conservation and protection. We hope that this latest display of the Sand Tiger Sharks will create an awareness among the public about these unique creatures. We are confident that this will translate into the further understanding of the need to protect them."

The exclusive showcase also drew some rather young and yet lucky visitors in the form of 20 Primary Five students from Bukit View Primary School. The students who initially enjoyed the breath taking view of the Sand Tiger Sharks were later tuned in to an informative interaction session with Ian Gordon, who shared with the students his expertise in areas like wild shark research.

School Holiday Price Promotion

With the school holidays just around the corner, Underwater World Singapore is pleased to offer a special price of \$13.50 for adult and \$8.50 for child admission tickets during the period 27 May - 25 June 2006 (both dates inclusive). This rate, which represents a 30% discount off published rates, is valid only for Singapore citizens, permanent residents and holders of employment passes, workers' permits and dependants' passes.



-end-

About Underwater World Singapore

Underwater World Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haw Par Corporation. Situated on Sentosa Island, this leisure and educational attraction showcases the rich variety of marine life to be found around the region, with educational and recreational activities available here.

The Dolphin Lagoon, an attraction of Underwater World Singapore houses the Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphins, commonly known as pink dolphins for its coat of "bubbly" pink in contrast to the usual grey appearance of dolphins. At the "Meet-the-Dolphin" sessions, visitors can enjoy a close encounter with these adorable pink creatures.

At Underwater World Singapore, our mission goes beyond making our guests aware of the fascinating marine life. Our commitment to marine conservation and environmental awareness is demonstrated through our work in public education, breeding, rescue and rehabilitation, and research. Underwater World Singapore reinforces its environmental efforts through educational exhibits and a variety of education programmes to children and other guests. School visits are actively supported, and a number of new educational programmes are planned. Underwater World Singapore has also been very active in providing special programmes and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled.

For more information, please contact any of the following:

Susan Ang

Asst Director (Sales & Marketing)
Underwater World Singapore
Tel: (65) 6275 0030
Email: susanang@uws.hawpar.com/peterchew@uws.hawpar.com

Jezamine Lee

Corporate Communications Manager
Haw Par Corporation Limited
Tel: (65) 6490 0209
E-mail: jezlee@hawpar.com