



Palau withdraws from agreement with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Anti-Poaching support most likely to be provided by Japanese government

Koror/Palau, June 03, 2011 – Enforcement of shark sanctuary remains ultimate goal and priority for Palau Shark Sanctuary.

H.E. Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, withdrew the agreement signed in March between the Pacific island state and the marine wildlife conservation organization. Instead, according to Sea Shepherd sources, the Japanese government is supposed to support Palau by providing a patrol vessel and financial support as an alternative to Sea Shepherd's involvement.

Dermot Keane, founder of non-profit organization Palau Shark Sanctuary, who established the contact between Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the Presidential Office of Palau, comments: "While this decision came as a surprise to us, Palau Shark Sanctuary remains fully committed to the protection of Palau's sharks and seeks full enforcement of the sanctuary declared by President Toribiong in 2009. We hope to welcome a patrol vessel to our waters very soon that will effectively support efforts to end illegal fishing in Palau."

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For more information on Palau Shark Sanctuary, please visit the press lounge:
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About Palau Shark Sanctuary



PRESS RELEASE

Palau Shark Sanctuary was founded in 2001 in an effort to end the annihilation of Palau's sharks as a result of rampant shark-finning at the hands of foreign long-line fishing vessels licensed by Palau to fish in their waters. In May 2003, former Palau President Mr. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., became a key supporter of the efforts of Palau Shark Sanctuary; in September 2003 he signed in to law some of the toughest anti-shark-finning legislation in the world. On September 25, 2009, President Johnson Toribiong from Palau declared the EEZ of Palau the world's first shark sanctuary during a speech in front of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. Palau Shark Sanctuary remains committed to the full implementation, enforcement and success of Palau's marine sanctuary.

All communication activities for Palau Shark Sanctuary are executed on a pro-bono basis by Tourism Unlimited.