

From Mossel Bay off to uShaka

■ Kimberley Lowe (Oceans Research)

The Shark Lab, Mossel Bay has this week sent a juvenile Green Turtle to uShaka, Durban for rehabilitation.

The turtle was cared for at The Shark Lab for a month, after being transferred from Dias Museum. Aquarist, Adam Johnstone, hand fed the turtle, which measured in at around 40cm from head to tail, until its transportation from Mossel Bay to Durban.

Green Turtles are classed as endangered, as both adults and eggs have been exploited and both are vulnerable to pollution, fishing and habitat loss. This species of turtle is not normally found in this area, as they prefer warmer waters.

A major part of uShaka Seaworld is marine animal rehabilitation and most animals, when healthy again, are returned to ocean. Hopefully The Shark Lab's temporary lodger will be swimming free in the ocean sometime soon.



This juvenile Green Turtle has been sent to uShaka, Durban for rehabilitation after being cared for at the Shark Lab, Mossel Bay. Photo: Oceans Research

For more information about The Shark Lab, call 044 690 5799.



A freshly preserved sevengill shark to be seen at the The Shark Lab.

A new face at The Shark Lab

The Shark Lab in Mossel Bay has recently developed its Shark Shop by introducing a new educational section, complete with a freshly preserved sevengill shark!

Sevengill sharks are rare and normally only found in deeper waters.

Unusually this shark has two different types of teeth - the upper set are sharp and pointed, similar to a Mako shark, while the lower set are jagged, like the Tiger shark. These features allow the sevengill to combat a

wide variety of prey.

Oceans Research was given this specimen when it was caught as a by-catch and has been busy preserving the animal for display.

Glass4U kindly custom made a display case for the sevengill, while Roger Bills of SAIAB graciously donated formalin for preserving the shark.

For more information on The Shark Lab, please visit www.shark-lab.co.za or phone 044 690 5799.

