

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

SAFE[®]
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION

SHARK AND RAY

YEAR 3 REPORT

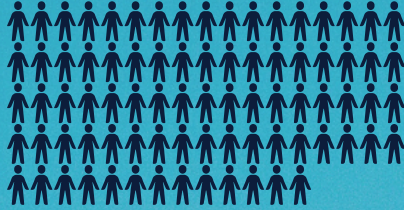
2024



SAFEsharks.org

2024 Highlights

81



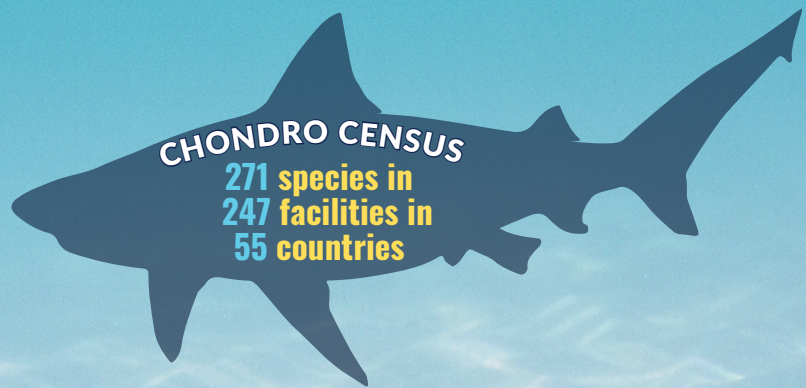
PROGRAM PARTNERS, FUNDERS
& CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



54+

PARTNERS CELEBRATED

SHARK & RAY
14 JULY
AWARENESS DAY



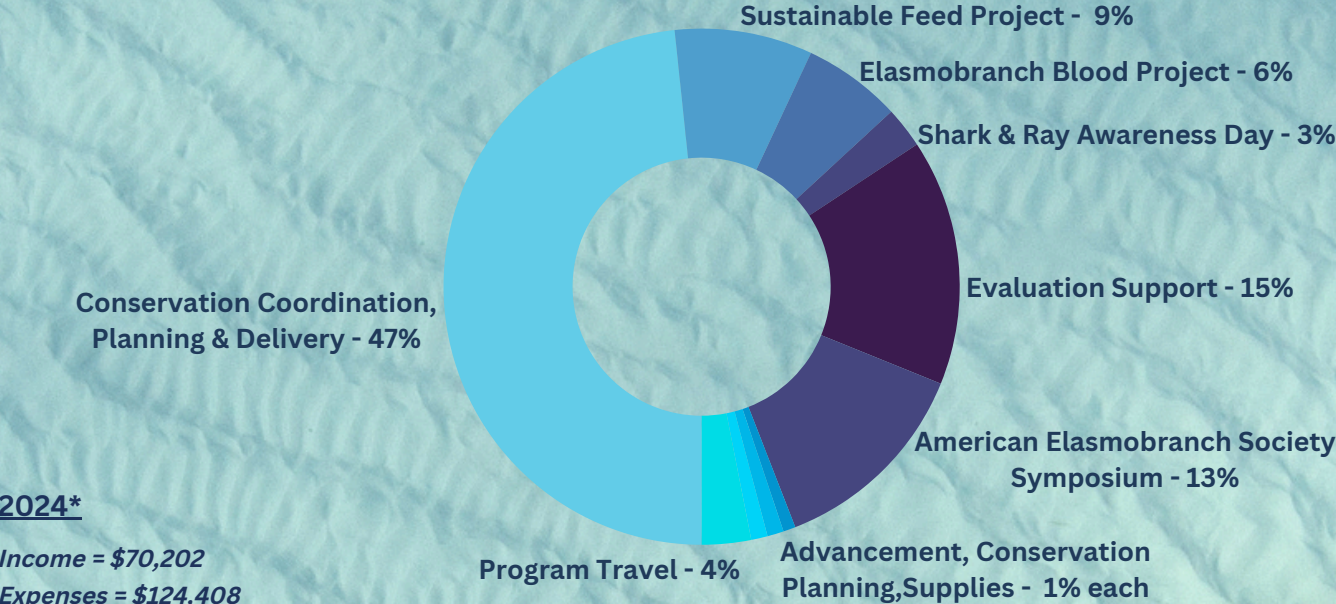
SUDS FOR SHARKS
FUNDRAISERS
RAISING \$4515



Conservation Spending

Conservative management and fiscal responsibility ensure optimal delivery of the goals outlined in the 3-year plan. A percentage of funds carried forward to 2024 derive from grant funding for specific project delivery, as well as much appreciated donations. Spending towards conservation project implementation has increased in year three as the various project actions have accelerated and been achieved. We are grateful for your on-going support and financial commitments to this program.

2024 Expenditures



2024*
Income = \$70,202
Expenses = \$124,408
*as of 10/31/2024

2023 Expenditures



2022-2024 Project Success

55

The **Sustainable Feed Project** has completed data analysis with a report of our findings presented at the 2024 AZA Annual Conference. **55 organizations** entered their data for assessment, and we have identified the 10+ organizations that are joining the “Business Commitment to Feed Sustainable”, and disseminating a Communications Toolkit for project participants to share their journey.

247

The **Chondro Census** has added 4 Regional Coordinators and 2 Vice Chair positions to the team. There are currently 271 unique species representing **247 facilities** across 55 countries - including AZA facilities. This represents an **18% increase** in facilities participating since 2020.

110

Thirteen SAFE partners have submitted **110 blood samples** to the **Elasmobranch Blood Project** for the four priority species outlined for 2024. The team has completed analysis for cownose rays and whitespotted bamboo sharks. We will continue to collect samples in 2025 for brown banded bamboo sharks, Atlantic stingrays and yellow stingrays.

140

Shark & Ray Awareness Day participation increased **140%** from 2022-2024, and this year the Toolkit was downloaded from our website 1142 times - a **53% increase** over 2023. We have exponentially increased social media engagement as well, and have demonstrated international participation in online events.

1500

The **Best Practices in Elasmobranch Handling and Welfare** project launched a digital app at the AZA Annual Conference in Calgary. The tool is currently being beta-tested and updated, and will be available via safesharks.org in early 2025. The team will be providing instructional training workshops next year, and will continue to add to the existing digital resources. A new Working Group will be established in early 2025 to assist with roll-out and training as we move from development into implementation. To date, over **1500 hours** have been dedicated to this project.

Program Partners & Contributors

Abel Conservation, LLC
Adventure Aquarium
Aquarium Conservation Partnership
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas
Aquarium of the Niagara
Aquarium of the Pacific
Atlantis Dubai
Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
California Science Center
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Conservation Coordination, LLC
Dallas World Aquarium
Discovery Cove
Dynasty Marine
Disney's The Seas with Nemo and Friends
Florida Aquarium
Georgia Aquarium
Inform Evaluation and Research
IUCN Shark Specialists Group/Aquarium Working Group
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
Jenkinson's Aquarium
Kansas City Zoo
Loveland Living Planet Aquarium
Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition
Minnesota Zoo
Mississippi Aquarium
Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium
Mystic Aquarium
National Aquarium
New England Aquarium/Anderson Cabot Center
for Ocean Life
Newport Aquarium
North Carolina Aquarium Fort Fisher
North Carolina Aquarium Pine Knoll Shores
North Carolina Aquarium Roanoke Island
OdySea Aquarium
Oregon Coast Aquarium
Phoenix Zoo

Ripley's Aquarium Myrtle Beach
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
Seafood Watch
SEA LIFE Arizona
SEA LIFE Charlotte
SEA LIFE Grapevine
SEA LIFE Kansas City
SEA LIFE Orlando
SEA LIFE Michigan
SEA LIFE Minnesota
SEA LIFE New Jersey
SEA LIFE San Antonio
Seattle Aquarium
Seneca Park Zoo
Shark Advocates International
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay
Shark Trust
Sharks 4 Kids
Shedd Aquarium
Seafood Watch/Monterey Bay Aquarium
South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation
Tennessee Aquarium
Texas State Aquarium
Turtle Back Zoo
The Aquarium Vet
The Word Factory
TRACKS Data Solutions
Wands and Wishes Occasions
Washed Ashore
Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
Wildlife Conservation Society/New York Aquarium
Wonders of Wildlife
ZooQuatic Laboratory LLC
Zoo Tampa



**The countless hours
of dedicated in-kind
support is how and
why we are so
successful!
Thank you!**

A Huge THANK YOU to our Donors!

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ART TO SAVE THE SEA

vancouver
aquarium.



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A Wildlife Conservation Society Park

phoenixZOO
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& AQUARIUM



ODYSEA
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Seneca Park Zoo
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CENTRAL FLORIDA
ZOO
& BOTANICAL GARDENS

BIRCH AQUARIUM
UC San Diego
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY
We connect understanding to protecting our ocean planet.

SEA LIFE
Grapevine

Larry's
COFFEE.

The Maritime Aquarium
Long Beach



Looking Ahead...

Our **2025-2029 Conservation Program Plan** is taking the program to the “next level” of conservation action. With four focused areas of work, international participation in planning and implementation, and a growing partner base, we are poised to elevate and amplify this work with our audiences to save sharks and rays from extinction.



Research & Data Sharing

- Expanding our networks beyond AZA and SAFE partners to include other zoological associations and in situ researchers
- Creating a structure for monitoring elasmobranch research priorities
- Increasing data sharing for greater impact
- Advancing elasmobranch science, health, and in situ and ex situ care and husbandry

Influencing Conservation Policy

- Empowering expertise within zoos and aquariums to advocate for policy and management processes
- Expanding, engaging and aligning with international partners to leverage our influence and impact
- Aligning with partners to impact global shark trade and demand
- Coordinating global efforts on international fisheries policies

Direct Species Conservation Action

- Understand the science and strategies for breeding, reproduction and reintroduction
- Better defining what conservation and recovery looks like for elasmobranchs
- Better coordination and collaboration with other AZA-shark conservation programs to identify species in need and maximize resources

Communications & Messaging

- Expanding audiences and representation, including internationally
- Developing audience-specific messaging and tools
- Promoting collective conservation action for elasmobranchs
- Sharing of best practices to increase communication between partners
- Coexisting with sharks to minimize human/wildlife conflict

Our Vision: By 2035, we have built diverse partnerships to deliver effective action for the conservation and recovery of sharks and rays.



Acknowledgements

The SAFE team would like to thank each of the following for their contributions:

- The SAFE Steering Committee
- All of our program partners
- AZA Conservation Team
- Hap Fatzinger and Paul Cox for their leadership

