

New addition to shark tank

The Mossel Bay Shark and Ray Aquarium recently had a surprise addition to its Pelagic display when two baby Starry Smooth-hounds were born! The pups were born early on Sunday, 3 October and were swiftly removed from the display by head aquarist Adam Johnstone, to prevent the larger sharks from preying on them.

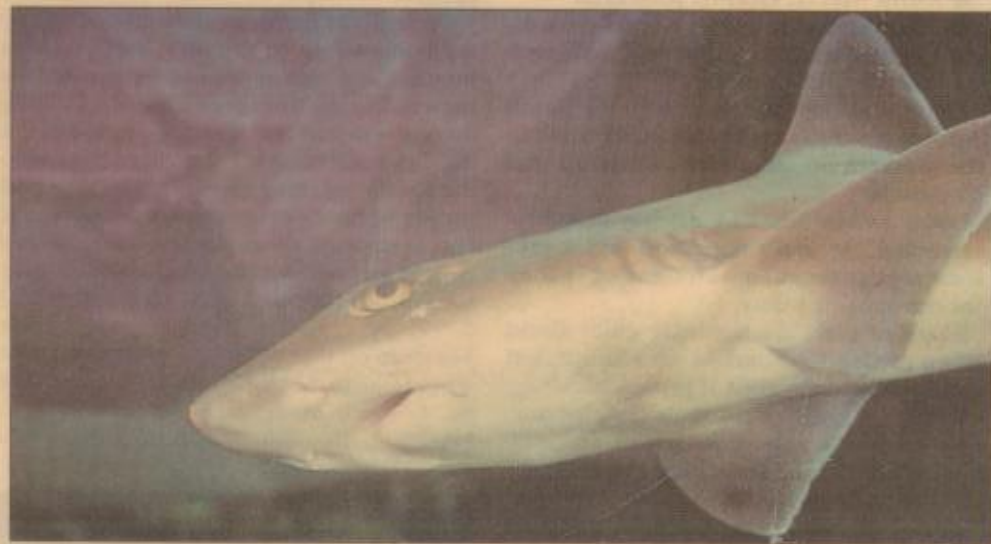
The shark thought to have given birth is a 90cm female, which was caught on 12 September. On arrival she weighed 3.7kg and was ironically nicknamed "Tiny" for her rotund stature. Mr Johnstone believes that the shark could potentially give birth to more pups, as normally they produce litters of 7 to 15 at a time.

Starry Smooth-hounds are live bearers, so each of the pups were born already able to swim and fend for themselves - a vital

ability if they are to survive in the wild. The pups were kept in quarantine for five days, before being released at sea on Friday, 8 October near Santos Beach.

The Shark Lab's 34,000 litre tank normally houses a variety of species of pelagic sharks, including soupfins, smooth-hounds, milk sharks and glassnose sharks. Also on display are a number of benthic sharks, including Pajama Jacket catsharks, Leopard catsharks and Puffadder Shysharks, along with smaller tanks featuring unusual and beautiful rock pool animals, such as anemones, urchins, shrimp, nudibranches, fish and even a cuttlefish.

For more information on the Shark Lab or activities available, please contact Kim on 044 690 5799.



The father of two baby Starry Smooth-hounds born at the Mossel Bay Shark and Ray Aquarium.