



For immediate release

Palau declares EEZ a shark sanctuary

President Johnson Toribiong urges other nations to follow suit

Koror/Palau – September 25, 2009. On Friday, September 25, 2009, H.E. Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, a tiny Pacific Island nation, declared the waters of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone (230,000 Sq. Miles / 620,000 Sq. Kms.), as the worlds first officially recognized shark sanctuary, during a meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York.

President Toribiong also called for a global ban on shark-finning and for other nations to follow suit. Through his actions, President Toribiong has placed Palau at the very forefront of worldwide efforts to protect sharks.

Dermot Keane, founder of Palau Shark Sanctuary and resolute protector of sharks, comments: "This is a tremendous day for Palau and for the global initiatives to protect sharks from absolute and unsustainable destruction! Palau Shark Sanctuary deeply commends President Toribiong for his international leadership in world efforts to protect sharks."

In March 2009, two newly elected senators had submitted bills to the government suggesting to re-introduce shark finning and to levy export tax from tuna fishing. This move had been followed by strong protests around the globe.

Editorial note:

Under the law of the sea, an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a seazone over which a state has special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources. It stretches from the edge of the state's territorial sea out to 200 nautical miles from its coast.



MEDIA ALERT

Press Contact:

Tourism Unlimited

Judith Hoppe

Partner

Schmid-Wildy-Weg 46

81739 Munich, Germany

phone: +49-89-673 78 619

e-mail judith.hoppe@tourism-unlimited.com

Palau Shark Sanctuary

Dermot Keane

Box 7076

Koror, PW 96940, Palau

phone: +680-488-7267

e-mail sharksanctuary@gmail.com

www.sharksanctuary.com

About Palau Shark Sanctuary

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. Palau Shark Sanctuary seeks a declaration by Palau establishing the waters of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as a sanctuary for all sharks.

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