

Position Title:	Shark Aquarist (Thai Nationals Only)
Location:	based in Phuket Province, Thailand
Type of contract:	6-month contract (with possibility of extension to 1 year contract, subject to performance review)
Salary Range:	Up to 23,000 THB/Month

WildAid is a growing and dynamic global wildlife conservation non-profit based in San Francisco, California, with a mission to inspire and empower the world to protect wildlife and vital habitats from critical threats. WildAid delivers impact at scale in two distinct ways: 1) creating innovative communications campaigns that inspire millions of people in China, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the U.S. to protect endangered wildlife and reduce climate impacts, and 2) strengthening effective ocean enforcement of priority marine areas, including marine protected areas, coastal fisheries, coral reefs, and blue carbon habitats, with government, NGO, and community partners in 16 countries around the globe. WildAid has received a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator for over a decade. Since its founding in 2000, WildAid has become a premier conservation organization in driving behavior change through both world-class communications campaigns and capacity building.

Job Description

WildAid is seeking a dedicated and passionate shark aquarist to join our team in supporting shark conservation efforts. This position is based in Phuket Province, Thailand and plays a crucial role in supporting the *Stegostoma Tigrinum* Augmentation and Recovery Project (StAR-Project-Thailand). The successful candidate will be responsible for the care and husbandry of shark eggs and pups, contributing to the conservation and population recovery of the iconic and endangered shark species.

Primary Responsibilities

- Care and husbandry of shark eggs and pups
- Sourcing of feed for shark pups
- Maintenance of shark nurseries, inventory and equipment
- Educational outreach with visitors and local communities
- Data gathering and input
- Participation in discussions with various StAR Project Working Groups
- Conducting post-release monitoring
- Additional duties and responsibilities as required by the program.

Essential qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology, Aquatic Science, Environmental Science, or a related field.
- A clear understanding of marine ecosystems, particularly elasmobranch biology and behavior is highly appreciated.
- Certifications in SCUBA diving and safety are highly appreciated.
- Ability to swim and free dive confidently
- Familiarity with aquarium systems, water quality management, and tank maintenance.
- Proficiency in written and spoken Thai and English.

Desirable skills and experience

Animal Care:

- Hands-on experience in a marine animal care setting, preferably with sharks or large marine animals.
- Demonstrated experience in feeding, handling, and caring for aquatic animals in a controlled environment.
- Proficient in observing and assessing the health and well-being of marine life and ability to recognize signs of stress or illness.

Technical Proficiency:

- Familiarity with aquarium equipment, including filtration systems, water testing instruments, and life support systems.
- Ability to maintain proper environmental conditions for optimal habitat and animal health.

Interpersonal Skills:

- Strong communication skills to engage with potential visitors, providing information about sharks, hatchery, and marine conservation.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment, while managing responsibilities independently. Collaborate with team members/international veterinary and husbandry working group of StAR Project - Thailand.
- Passionate for animal care and ethics.

Problem-Solving:

- Strong analytical skills to troubleshoot equipment issues and respond to emergency situations effectively.

Tentative Work Schedule – 6 days per week

Days	Scheduled Work
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Picture day for individual identification
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food preparation (collecting snails, cutting fish, shrimp, squid)● Aquarium equipment maintenance● Sea pen check and maintenance
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Taking measurements (length, girth, and weight of sharks)● Candling (checking status of shark eggs)● Cleaning cover lid
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Data entry
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food preparation for the sharks (collecting snails, cutting fish, shrimp, squid)● Candling (checking status of shark eggs)● Filter cleaning
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Data entry● Water quality tool maintenance (calibration and cleaning i.e. pH meter, DO meter, thermometer)
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Picture day for individual identification
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Checking pump every 2 weeks● Checking filtration system every 2 weeks● Tank cleaning every 2 weeks● Weekly report on shark status and hatchery data sheet management● Conducting shark necropsy and reporting results when necessary

Daily Routine Work:

- Daily feeding of sharks (4 times per day) 9:00, 11:00, 14:00, 16:00
- Noting important information
 - Daily food intake of each shark, feeding behavior, monitoring of fecal matter after feeding
 - General health check (gill respiration rate, resting and swimming behavior, skin, eye, and parasites check)
 - Other observations (i.e. personality, behavior, egg movement)
- Tank maintenance – general cleaning/quick scrub
- Water quality testing – Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, flow (liter per minutes - flow meter)
- Update Shark Information Board if needed – information on daily water quality, shark status

Other potential responsibilities:

- Attend training for safe shark handling, collecting blood and biological samples, tagging training (RFID and acoustic tag and receiver)
- Assist in organizing events that may occur at the hatchery and/or related to StAR Project - Thailand
- Accommodate film crew, visitors that may visit the hatchery

Remuneration

This is currently a contract position. Compensation commensurate with experience. Personal factors such as your demonstrated skills, level of education or certification, history in the sector or industry, and relevant work experience will all be evaluated.

Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying, please send a detailed cover letter and your resume with expected income to thailand@wildaid.org with 'Shark Aquarist Application' in the subject line. Due to high applicant volume, only short-listed candidates will receive a response from WildAid.

Equal Opportunity Employer

WildAid is committed to being inclusive and is proud to be an equal-opportunity employer. We will consider all applications and applicants.