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Note: Photos Available

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FIVE NEW SHARKS FIND A HOME AT THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

Sharks to be added to the Great Ocean Tank exhibit

Charleston, S.C. — January 22, 2010 — On Monday, January 25, 2010, at 9 a.m. media are invited to join the South Carolina Aquarium as we add one black tip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*), a near threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and four sandbar sharks (*Charcharhinus plumbeus*), one of the most common species of shark found in South Carolina, to the Aquarium's Great Ocean Tank exhibit. With the addition of the five sharks, the Great Ocean Tank, the largest exhibit at the South Carolina Aquarium, will showcase a total of 10 sharks including two nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*), three sand tiger sharks (*Carcharias taurus*), four sandbar sharks (*Charcharhinus plumbeus*) and one black tip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*).

"We are constantly looking at ways to enrich our visitor experience," says Senior Biologist and Dive Safety Officer, Arnold Postell. "The addition of new animals, especially charismatic animals such as these sharks, is very educational and entertaining for our guests."

The awaiting five sharks are currently residing at the Aquarium in behind-the-scenes holding tanks. Aquarium staff members collected the sharks earlier in the year as a part of the Animal Care Program's collection plan set by federal and state regulations through the Highly Migratory Species Permit.

Media are invited to join the South Carolina Aquarium Monday, January 25, 2010 at 9 a.m. to film the addition of the five new sharks and speak with members of the Aquarium's animal care team.

What: Addition of Five Sharks to the Aquarium's Great Ocean Tank

When: Monday, January 25, 2010 at 9 a.m.

Where: South Carolina Aquarium

According to "Sharks of South Carolina" by Charles Farmer III, there are 39 species of shark in South Carolina's waters and approximately 500 known species in the world.

For all media inquiries, please contact Elizabeth Bender at (843) 579-8699 or ebender@scaquarium.org.

About the South Carolina Aquarium:

The South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston's most-visited attraction, features thousands of amazing aquatic animals from river otters to sharks to loggerhead turtles in more than 60 exhibits representing the rich biodiversity of South Carolina from the mountains to the sea. Dedicated to promoting education and conservation, the Aquarium also presents fabulous views of Charleston harbor and interactive exhibits and programs for visitors of all ages.

The South Carolina Aquarium, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is open Monday - Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last ticket sold at 5 p.m.) from March 1 to August 15 and is open Monday – Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m (last ticket sold at 4 p.m.) from August 16 to March 1. The Aquarium is closed Thanksgiving Day, half day Dec. 24 (open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Dec. 25. Admission prices are: Children 1 and under (free); Youth 2-11 (\$10.95); Adults (\$17.95); Seniors 62+ (\$16.95). Military, AAA, senior, college and group discounts are available. For more information call 843-720-1990 or visit www.scaquarium.org. Memberships are available by calling 843-577-FISH (3474).

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