

The last Far North for 2007

24th Nov – 3rd Dec 2007



After cyclone Guba the week before, we landed the best weather you could hope for on a Far Northern trip. We dived the outside of the reefs, did lots of drift dives with Silver City and Tuna-Tunnel the hot spots of the week. Turtles were a bit quiet, as they have been all season on Raine Island.

The highlight of the trip was when *Rainebow*, a 15-year old female Tiger Shark

was recaptured and retagged by Richard Fitzpatrick. Rainebow was tagged last year, almost to the day, at Raine whilst Richard was being filmed by 60 minutes. Last year she was 3.2m and was fitted with a Splash Tag. This year she measured 3.6m was refitted with a new type of splash tag that reads depth. So far she has been emitting great information every day. She has been stationary at Raine Island and diving as deep as 400m –WOW. Good information was gained from this recapture including that Rainebow had no side effects from the tag, however, Richard was a little surprised by the growth on the antenna.

These new tags cost \$8,000 dollars each, and is a joint project between Richard Fitzpatrick of Australasian Natural History Unit, CSIRO and **Undersea Explorer**. Richard will be tagging some more sharks for a 2hour documentary that will be aired next August, so look for Expedition Shark on the Discovery Channel.



If you would like to see Rainebow's movements have a look on this web page or www.thereefchannel.com, or www.sharkresearch.com