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Star Dolphin Goes Missing & Shark Attack in Egypt

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Star Dolphin Goes Missing. For more than 35 years, Fungie, the wild dolphin, has thrilled visitors to Dingle Bay in County Kerry, Ireland, by coming alongside boats for a close encounter. Sadly, Fungie has not been seen for some weeks, and Dr. Kevin Flannery, a marine biologist and Fungie expert, reckons there's little chance he'll return. This will be a blow to the Dingle tourist industry, already hit by coronavirus restrictions, with up to 100 people relying on Fungie tours and shops for employment.
The Irish Post

Historical Raja Ampat Manta Images Wanted. Indonesia's Bird's Head Seascape Manta ID database contains details of more than 1400 individual mantas. Burt Jones, the administrator, is currently searching for images taken before 2009. If by chance, you have images from that time, he'd be delighted. The photos must have been taken in Indonesia's Bird's Head Seascape (Raja Ampat, Cenderawasih Bay, and Triton Bay). They must be belly-shots for ID purposes (and low res is preferable) and include the date and location you took them. Contact Burt at info@birdsheadseascape.com

Shark Attacks Snorkelers in Egypt. Five people, including two Ukrainian tourists and their Egyptian guide, were injured in a rare shark attack while snorkeling at Shark Reef in the Ras Mohammed National Park at the end of October. The six-foot oceanic whitetip made a second attack as the group attempted to reach their boat. It's an unusual place to take snorkelers, since the water at the famous scuba diving location is up to 2000 feet deep, and the currents are unpredictable, but it is probably indicative of the economic stress suffered by the Egyptian tourist industry. The site is temporarily closed to all in-water activities. *English.Ahranonline*

A Scuba Thriller to Read in Lockdown. Written by *Undercurrent's* publisher Ben Davison (writing as KL Smith) and set in Belize, *Tropical Ice* kicks off with a hairy shark feeding dive, and leads into a tale of shark-finning, reef-raping, murder and politics, on an industrial scale, with plenty of diving, including a threatening night dive. It all takes place at Cap'n Jack's Rum Caye Dive Resort, where Jack's trying to save his failing resort with shark-feeding dives, until a body turns up in the damndest place. *Tropical Ice* is available online from [Amazon](#) in paperback or [Kindle](#).

A Dirty Business. A 26-year-old Belgian financed his scuba diving vacations by selling child pornography online. In October, Bryan Loyson, 26, was arrested in Australia in cooperation with European authorities and sentenced to four years in jail. Restraining orders were placed on his bank accounts in Australia and Germany containing \$21,000, and authorities confiscated his camera equipment, a drone, and scuba diving gear. *Euro Weekly*

Wreck Find in Lake Ontario. Daniel Gildea thinks he is the first person to stumble across the remains of an unidentified 116-foot-long wooden schooner while he was scuba diving in the Henderson Bay (NY) in Lake Ontario. Imagine going diving and discovering a centuries-old ship! He was alerted when a boating friend snagged his anchor on an obstruction. The *Hartford*, another three-mast wooden schooner, recently washed up on North Sandy Pond. *NYTV 7News*

Ocean Acidification Affects Fishes. Researchers from six countries have released a scientific paper rejecting an earlier study claiming ocean acidification has no effect on marine life. In a rebuttal of a paper published by Clark et al. in *Nature*, lead author Prof. Philip Munday of James Cook University stated the errant authors had failed to replicate past studies' methods. "The evidence that elevated CO2 can affect fish behavior is overwhelming," says Prof. Göran Nilsson, a co-author from the University of Oslo. *Phys Org*

Stop Your Denial. It is the Climate. Global warming is driving an unprecedented rise in sea temperatures in the Mediterranean, according to a major new report published by the *Journal of Operational Oceanography*. Orcas are leaving the Strait of Gibraltar for cooler Atlantic waters off the coast of Spain. In 2018, a mass of warm water also occurred in the northeast Pacific Ocean, according to the report. Akin to a marine heatwave -- dubbed 'the Blob' -- which was first detected in 2013, it has a devastating effect on marine life. Sea surfaces globally have warmed considerably from 1993 to 2018, with the largest increase in the Arctic Ocean. As sea levels rise as well, the Marshall Islands could be lost to climate change as early as 2080. *Phys Org/Pacific Daily News*

Catching those Turtle Egg Poachers. Green and Olive Ridley sea turtles, both endangered species, are losing their eggs to beach poachers in Costa Rica. So, biologists started 3D printing of fake turtle eggs using a material that combines the squishy feel of the eggs with the eggs' dimensions and color. The feel is especially important because poachers typically work at night. After being printed, the fake egg is sliced in half, a small GPS tracker is placed in the middle, and the two halves are glued back together. Once the faux egg is grabbed from a nest, researchers can use cell towers and Google Maps to track how and where the eggs are being sold -- typically through a local grocery store or the poacher going door-to-door. *Thomasnet.com*

Stay Safe,

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