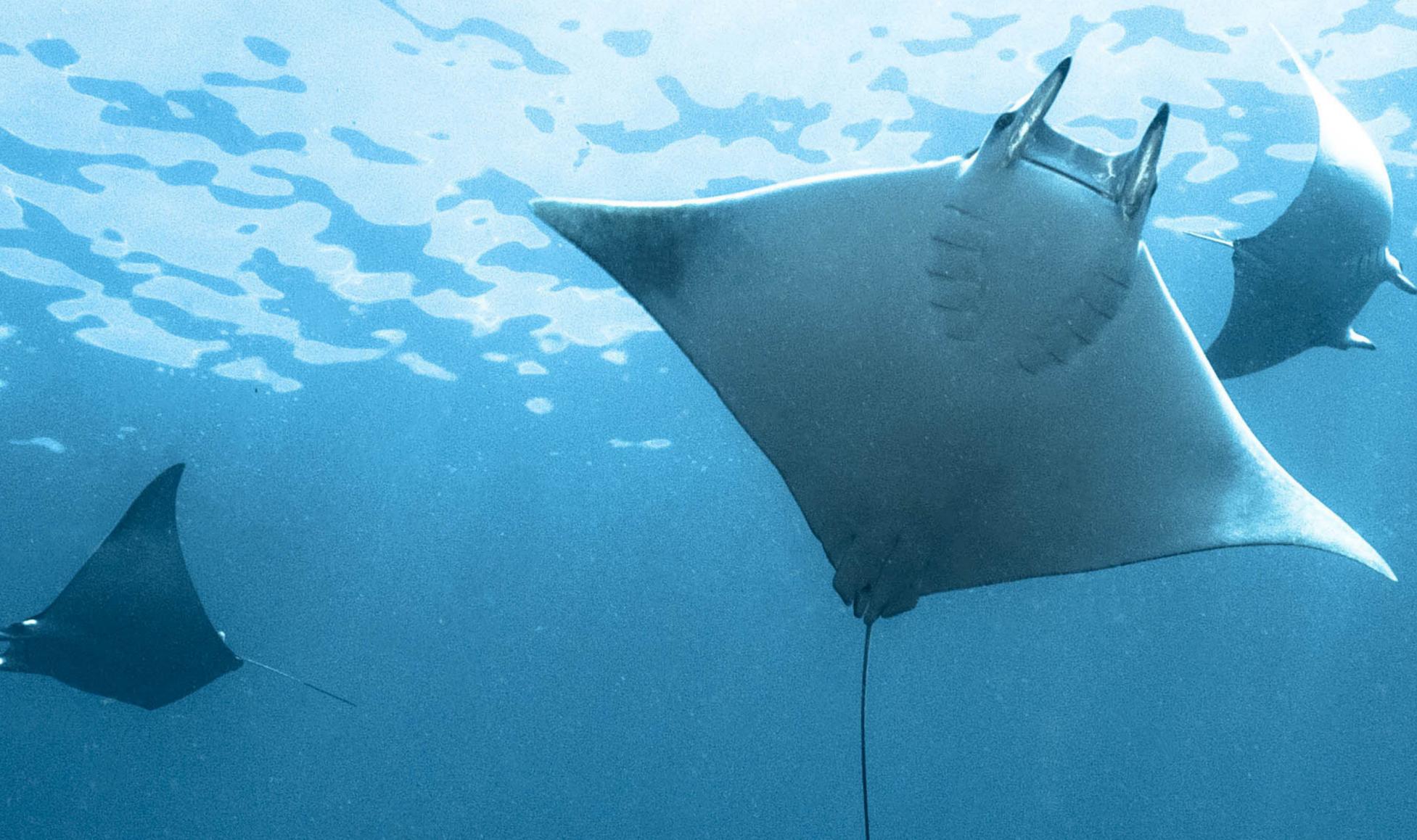


DEVIL RAY CONSERVATION DIVE



ENCOUNTER DEVIL RAYS

**CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION AND
EDUCATION AT ALI WAL SHOAL**

**Best time of year: December - February
Only an extra R200 on your reef dive**

Includes ray plushie, educational briefing, and donation to research



STATISTICS

90-100%

TOURISTS WOULD PAY MORE

- 1) To try to see an aggregation of devil rays
- 2) To see a newly discovered cleaning station
- 3) To contribute to marine conservation of Aliwal Shoal



95%

AGREE TOURISM VALUE

When asked if devil rays could one day be valuable. Further, 93% and 100% surveyed people believe devil rays could attract international and local tourism, respectively.

98%

WOULD RECOMMEND

Others to go and see devil rays.



95%

SAY ALIWAL IS A HOTSPOT

To see the Endangered shortfin devil rays. However, only 52% agree that Aliwal is well known for devil rays.



55% CONCERNED

ABOUT BYCATCH

When asked what the top threats are to devil rays in the Aliwal Shoal MPA. A further 74% answered that not enough research is being done, and 79% answered that there is not enough being done to manage the regulations set in place.



DEVIL RAY CONSERVATION DIVE: REQUIREMENTS

An additional R200 on your normal reef dive price for each diver:

- R50 to the trained divemaster (to give the 5 min devil ray briefing)
- R50 to the dive centre for the extra admin involved
- R50 to the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI)
- R50 to a local school to purchase a mobula ray plushie

If this is something you want to pursue, I will give you all the materials, including photos and facts to market on social media. High quality films will be produced in the coming years that will likely cause a surge in tourism resulting

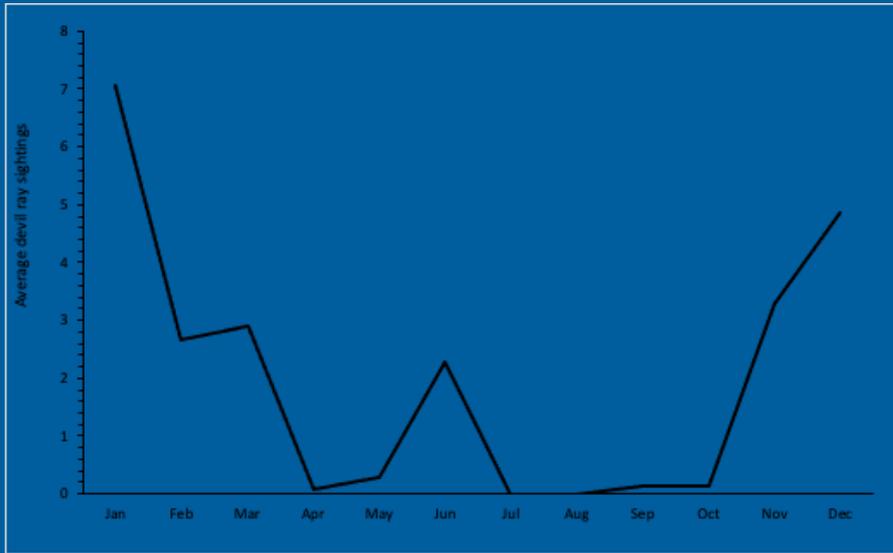
from this Aliwal Shoal devil ray exposure. The divemasters who agree to lead these dives will be trained to give a briefing about basic biology and conservation of devil rays, and what the divers' money is going towards. There will also be a code of conduct for behaviour around the devil rays. Similar to a shark dive briefing, it will be roughly five minutes. One divemaster from each dive centre will be selected as a 'leader' to ensure that the dive briefings are being delivered, and to help with the admin of setting aside funds for donations to research, schools, and trained divemasters. We chose ORI to conduct acoustic tagging research on devil rays; the necessary next step towards understanding the species.

HOW TO FIND DEVIL RAYS AT ALI WAL

SEASONALITY AND CURRENT

- Best time of the year is November-March but to be safe, advertise for December-February.
- North to South Current: Start at either Cathedral* or South Sands and head south along the outside edge line towards Bay of Caves and continue south. If shallow is required, continue to Eelskins.
- South to North Current: Start at Bay of Caves and continue northwards to Cathedral* or continue/start at South Sands and continue to Chunnel or along the outside to NE Pinnacles and subsequently North Sands.

*If choosing the deep route, use Nitrox 30-33%



MOBULA RAY PLUSHIE TO SUPPORT LOCAL UMKOMAAS SCHOOL

Each diver receives a hand-knitted devil/manta ray plushie from a local Widenham/Umkomaas school which is a R50 donation to the school towards marine education for the students.

NO VIS, NO PROBLEM!

Devil rays can be seen on the shoal in as little as 5m horizontal visibility. You just have to know how to see their shadows! Once they are around it is very likely to see them. During season in the 'devil ray area' the statistics of encountering at least one is 65%.

LOOK UP! AND LOOK FOR JUMPS!

One brave devil ray of the group often approaches first, with more individuals or a large fever of rays further away from him/her, so keep searching for the larger group! Once a skipper, fisher, or diver sees devil rays jumping on the shoal there is a good chance for at least a few days to weeks of seeing them in the southern area. The rays may then arrive and depart the Shoal periodically during their 'season'.