

Proceedings of the International Symposium  
**Reproduction of Marine Life, Birth of New Life!**  
**Investigating the Mysteries of Reproduction**  
February 21-22, 2009, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, 2009



Editor

Keiichi Sato  
Okinawa Churashima Research Center

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## Preface

With great pleasure we are publishing the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Reproduction of Marine Life which was held here in February, 2009.

The Symposium, entitled “Birth of New Life! Investigating the Mysteries of Reproduction” was hosted by the Ocean Expo Commemorative Foundation (currently Okinawa Churashima Foundation) which manages the Ocean Expo Park with the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, and the Shuri Castle Park, both belonging to the National Government Park System. We received many visitors for an average of 2.67 million visitors per year, and in fiscal year 2007 we recorded a total of over 3 million visitors for the first time.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the researchers who contributed to this Proceedings volume, travelling such a long way to attend the Symposium in Okinawa, and then writing their contributions for publication here.

We have already held three International Symposia, entitled “Elasmobranch Studies, Present Achievement and Future Advancement” in 2004; “Recent Advances in Cetology and Sirenology” in 2006; and “Into the Unknown, Researching Mysterious Deep-sea Animals” in 2007. However, during those Symposia, mostly ecological and field studies in the coral reefs and open oceans were discussed. Thus, for this Symposium, we chose the leading characters to be Reproductive Biology especially on the captive reproduction in aquarium researches. Concerning marine wildlife, and especially large-sized marine life, there are still many unknowns, and too many mysteries yet to be solved!

We can only make long-term studies of the physiology and ecology of many marine animals by keeping them in captivity. At the symposium, our Symposium participants actively discussed a wide range of subjects concerning reproduction, and especially, included in their discussions the role of aquariums to promote and develop studies of the reproductive biology.

20 August 2013

Mr. Yoshiya Iguchi  
Director, Okinawa Churashima Research Center  
Okinawa Churashima Foundation

## Contents

**Gavin Naylor** and Neil Aschliman

**How many species of living sharks, skates and rays are there, and how did they arise over the course of evolution?**

Page 5 - 12

**Hiroaki Soma**, N. Murai, K. Tanaka , H. Kokuba, I. Yoshihama, K. Fujita, S. Mineo, M. Kudo, M. Toda and S. Uchida

**Aspects of placentation systems in the scalloped hammerhead shark, *Sphyrna lewini*, and the manta ray, *Manta birostris*.**

Page 13 - 22

**David Wm. Owens** and Gaëlle Blanvillain

**Captive reproduction of sea turtles: An important success story.**

Page 23 - 40

**Miriam Marmontel**

**Conservation of Amazonian manatees in Brazil with emphasis on reproductive aspects**

Page 41 - 51

**Jose I. Castro**

**A primer on shark reproduction for aquarists**

Page 52 - 69

田 中 秀 樹 **Hideki Tanaka**

ウナギ人工種苗生産研究の現状と課題

**Artificial production of Japanese eel *Anguilla japonica* (in Japanese)**

Page 70 - 76