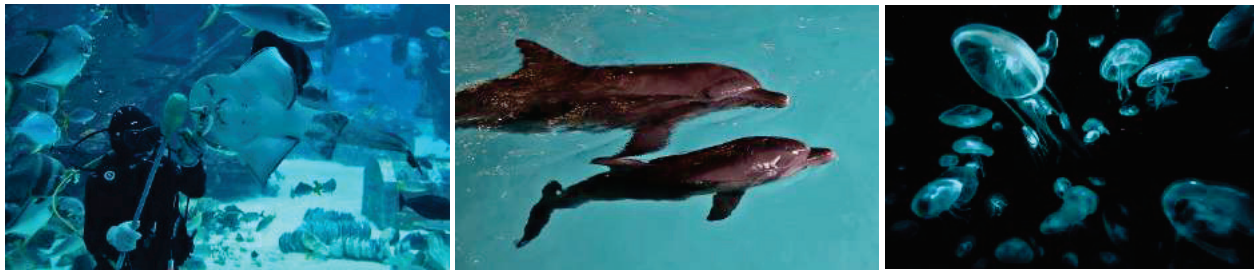


## press release

### Resorts World Sentosa Celebrates Mother's Day with Bumper Crop of Babies at S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island

*Newborns include one of the world's first successful birth of shark ray pup, dolphin calves and endangered Banggai cardinalfish; New family packages and educational programmes rolled out in celebration of Mother's Day*



S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island at Resorts World Sentosa welcomed a bumper crop of babies including a shark ray pup (left) which is one of the world's first to be bred and raised successfully under human care, female dolphin calf Kundali (centre), and moon jelly babies (right). PHOTO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA.

**SINGAPORE, 5 May 2016** – S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island at Resorts World Sentosa are celebrating a baby boom in the run-up to Mother's Day this year with over 500 babies from close to 10 species born or hatched from October 2015 to April 2016.

Amongst these, five species are threatened, including a shark ray pup – one of the world's first to be successfully born and raised under human care – as well as the black-blotched stingray and the endangered Banggai cardinalfish. Dolphin Island recently welcomed a female calf in January, in addition to two babies born in October last year.

Adrian Penny, Assistant Vice President for General Management, S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island, said: "We are thrilled to welcome the newest additions to our family of marine animals, some of which are threatened. Breeding programmes are key in sustaining a healthy and diverse zoological population, and more importantly, offer hope in protecting species from extinction. The successful births and hatchings are testament to the hard work and commitment of our dedicated team of aquarists, trainers and animal health teams in providing the best care for our animals."

#### Shark ray pup

S.E.A. Aquarium is proud to welcome a shark ray pup on 10 November 2015 and is successfully raising the newborn, making it one of the few aquariums in the world to breed and raise a shark ray pup under professional care and husbandry.

Listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN\* Red List of Threatened Species, the shark ray is difficult to breed under human care. Little research is done on the biology or population status of this species, and pups are known for their high mortality rates. Aquarists at S.E.A. Aquarium have developed a detailed nutritional diet to ensure the healthy development of the pup, placing it under close observations.

#### Dolphin calf

A new member joined Dolphin Island's pod of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins with the birth of a female baby on 31 January 2016. The latest calf, named "Kundali", brings the total number of births to four, including Ella (female, born 18 October 2015), Chaska (male, born 7 October 2015) and Isabelle (female, born 17 December 2014). Kundali and her mother, Rani, are doing well and will remain in their private pool for nursing and observations as part of essential mother-offspring bonding.

#### Black-blotched stingrays

Two black-blotched stingrays, another threatened species, were born at S.E.A. Aquarium in December 2015. These large stingrays can be found in the waters of Indo-West Pacific and face the threat of unregulated fishing. Visitors can see them up-close at the Ray Bay marine encounter at Adventure Cove Waterpark.

#### Banggai cardinalfish

The endangered Banggai cardinalfish, a strikingly coloured fish found only at Indonesia's Banggai islands, is also successfully breeding at S.E.A. Aquarium with 150 babies hatched this year. Known as mouth brooders, cardinalfish are among the world's most attentive parents where the father holds fertilised eggs in his mouth until they hatch.

#### Sea jelly babies

S.E.A. Aquarium got a boost with hundreds of sea jellies from three species successfully bred at its facility. These include the moon jelly and white spotted lagoon jelly. The sea jelly gallery is one of the most visually stunning habitats where visitors can learn more about these intriguing creatures.

#### Mother's Day celebrations

In celebration of Mother's Day, visitors heading to S.E.A. Aquarium from 7 May to 12 June 2016 can take part in a Super Mums activity trail to discover the amazing abilities of marine animal mothers in caring for their young. Kids can get hands-on with crafts and make mum feel special by writing a message of love from the heart. Photo aficionados can join an Instagram contest to win a Ray Bay experience to feed and interact with dozens of rays while learning about these marine animals.

Mums and the whole family can enjoy special one-day family packages at S.E.A. Aquarium (2 adults + 1 child at S\$64) and Adventure Cove Waterpark (2 adults + 1 child at S\$78). This special promotion is valid between 7 May and 31 August 2016 for online bookings made in Singapore only.

Those looking for an adventure with dolphins can start the day with the new 'Morning with Dolphins' programme which includes up-close encounters with the dolphins while learning about their behaviours, diets, and the special bonds between the marine mammals and their trainers. As part of the programme, visitors can also meet dolphin calf Isabelle and spend a fun-filled day at Adventure Cove Waterpark and

S.E.A. Aquarium. This programme is available on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 8.45am to 12.00pm (select dates from 28 May to 12 September 2016).

Dolphin Island and S.E.A. Aquarium are accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). The accreditation ranks the two attractions among the best zoos and aquariums in the world.

\*IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

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### ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's ultimate destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to key attractions including the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park, S.E.A. Aquarium (one of the world's largest aquariums), Adventure Cove Waterpark and Dolphin Island. Other attractions include a Maritime Experiential Museum, an award-winning destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels, the Resorts World Convention Centre, celebrity chef restaurants, and specialty retail outlets. The resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as the Crane Dance and the Lake of Dreams. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for five consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com).

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**Note to Editors**

1. Please use the following photo captions for visuals.
2. High resolution photos can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/v/marineanimalbabies>
3. All photos are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**.



Dolphin Island's pod of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins welcomed a female born on 31 January 2016. Named "Kundali", the baby and mother are doing well and will remain in their private pool for nursing and observations as part of essential mother-offspring bonding.



The arrival of female calf Kundali brings the total number of dolphin births to four. Pictured here are Dolphin Island's trainers with proud dolphin mothers (from foreground): Pelangi and her calf Ella (female, born 18 October 2015), Shanti and her calf Chaska (male, born 7 October 2015) and Tian Tang and her calf Isabelle (female, born 17 December 2014).



S.E.A. Aquarium is proud to welcome a shark ray pup on 10 November 2015 and is one of the few aquariums in the world to successfully raise the newborn. The shark ray gets its name from its broad front section like a ray, with a back section that resembles a shark with dual dorsal fins.



Also known as the bowmouth guitarfish, the shark ray pup now resides at S.E.A. Aquarium's Shipwreck habitat and may occasionally be seen during target feeding sessions.



The endangered Banggai cardinalfish, a strikingly coloured fish found only at Indonesia's Banggai islands, is also successfully breeding at S.E.A. Aquarium with 150 babies hatched this year.



Two black-blotched stingrays, another threatened species, was born at S.E.A. Aquarium in December 2015. The new pups can be seen at Adventure Cove Waterpark as part of the Ray Bay experience.