

PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 13 April 2010

DEEP DONATES RAY TO DUTCH AQUARIUM

The Deep, Hull's award-winning aquarium is this week donating one of its Bluespotted Ribbontail rays to a Dutch Zoo, as part of a European breeding programme) breeding programme. The Deep is one of only 3 aquariums in the world to successfully breed this species. The male ray was born at The Deep 18 months ago and is now going to be paired with a female at Burgers Zoo aquarium in Arnhem, The Netherlands, in the hope that they will breed.

The Deep's curator Katy Duke explains, "Bluespotted Ribbontails are very difficult to breed in captivity and we are delighted that our naturalistic environment has proved to be conducive to their reproduction. Our male will join a female at Burgers Zoo aquarium as the first ray to enter the European Studbook shark breeding programme and hopefully he too will become a parent in the future."

The Deep's Bluespotted Ribbontail rays live in the Lagoon of Light amongst many other tropical fish.

BACKGROUND

Bluespotted Ribbontail Rays (*Taeniura lymma*) give birth to live young rather than laying eggs as many other rays do and are found in the Pacific Ocean and Red Sea. They usually live alone or in small groups in sandy lagoons and coral reefs They have a venomous spine close to the base of their tails that is usually only used in self defence. They grow to a maximum length of 70cm.

BIAZA

<http://www.biaza.org.uk>

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) is a conservation, education and wildlife charity (charity no. 248553). Founded in 1966, it represents over 80 member organisations including all the significant zoos and aquariums in Britain and Ireland. Its vision is 'to be a powerful force in the care and conservation of the natural world' and its mission is to support and lead its members:

- to inspire people to help conserve the natural world
- to participate in effective co-operative conservation programmes
- to deliver the highest quality environmental education, training and research
- to achieve the highest standards of animal care and welfare in zoos, aquariums and in the wild