



Thresher Shark Indonesia

Impact Report 2024



<https://threshershark.id>



@threshershark.id



Thresher Shark Indonesia



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About Us

Thresher Shark Indonesia is an initiative started in 2018 by young Indonesian conservationists. Starting from a single project, we're now an established Indonesian Non-Profit under the Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia. Our goal is to protect Indonesia's declining and endangered thresher shark population.

Our Vision

Conserve thresher sharks at Alor, East Nusa Tenggara, by providing policy recommendations through the studies of satellite and acoustic tagging technology, underwater surveys as well as providing alternative livelihood solutions for shark-dependent communities in Indonesia.



Our Mission

Working closely with local communities, governments, businesses, scientists, filmmakers, and other NGOs to develop long-term solutions that protect endangered shark species, as well as respect the rights of local people to livelihoods.

2024

in numbers

93

*schools and
villages engaged*

77%

decrease in thresher
catch in Alor

3

regions; Alor,
Banda, Flores.

3246

people reached
and educated

20

women engaged in
livelihood initiative

6200

mangroves planted



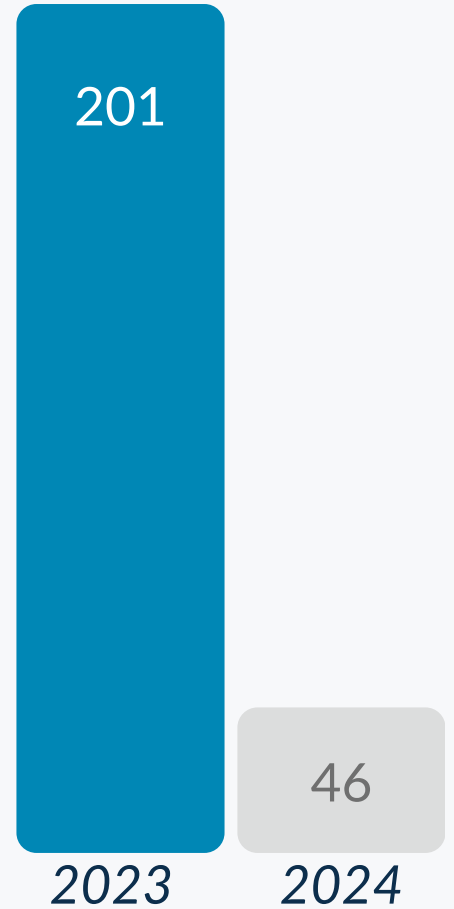
1.

Reducing Thresher Shark Catches in Alor

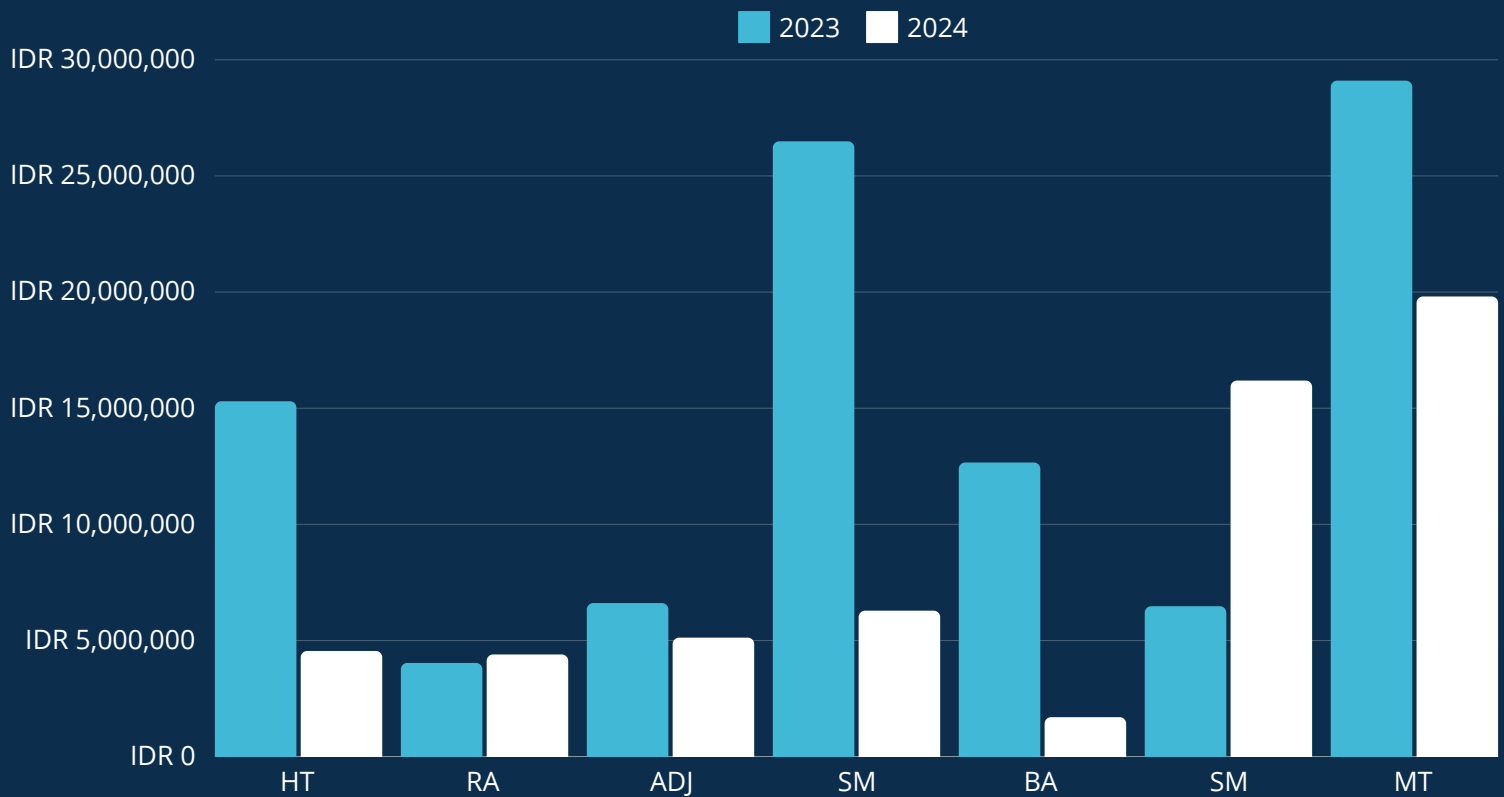
Thresher shark catch data in Alor

In 2024, thresher shark catches **dropped by 77%**, from 201 in 2023 to just 46. The number of sharks caught once escalated in 2023 due to socio-political tension in the village. However, this decline is partly associated with our intervention since some shark fishers have transitioned to alternative livelihoods since 2021.

This data was collected daily by a field enumerator in the village.



Total Income of Fishers per year

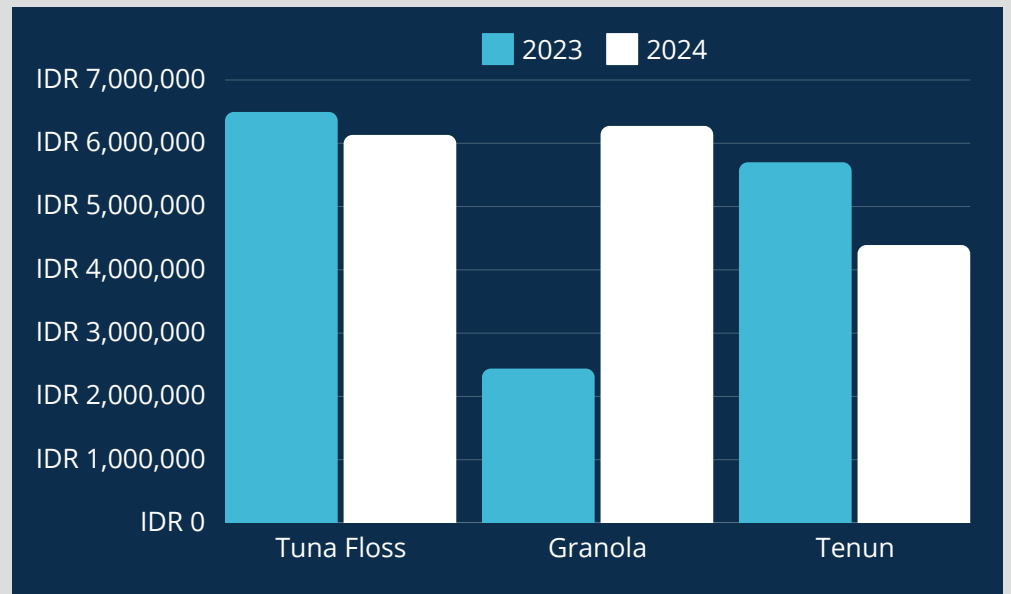


Data is taken year-on-year (YOY) for the period of January to September.

Fishers who have transitioned to alternative livelihoods continue to receive our assistance. We held monthly monitoring sessions to discuss experiences with fishers and identify any changing motivations while transitioning to new livelihoods. Income has fluctuated due to unpredictable fishing seasons and other personal challenges like sickness. Nevertheless, fishers remain committed to the initiative. **Changes take time!**



Total Revenues from Women Group



Total revenue from the production of alternative livelihoods adopted by women group. Data was taken Year-on-Year

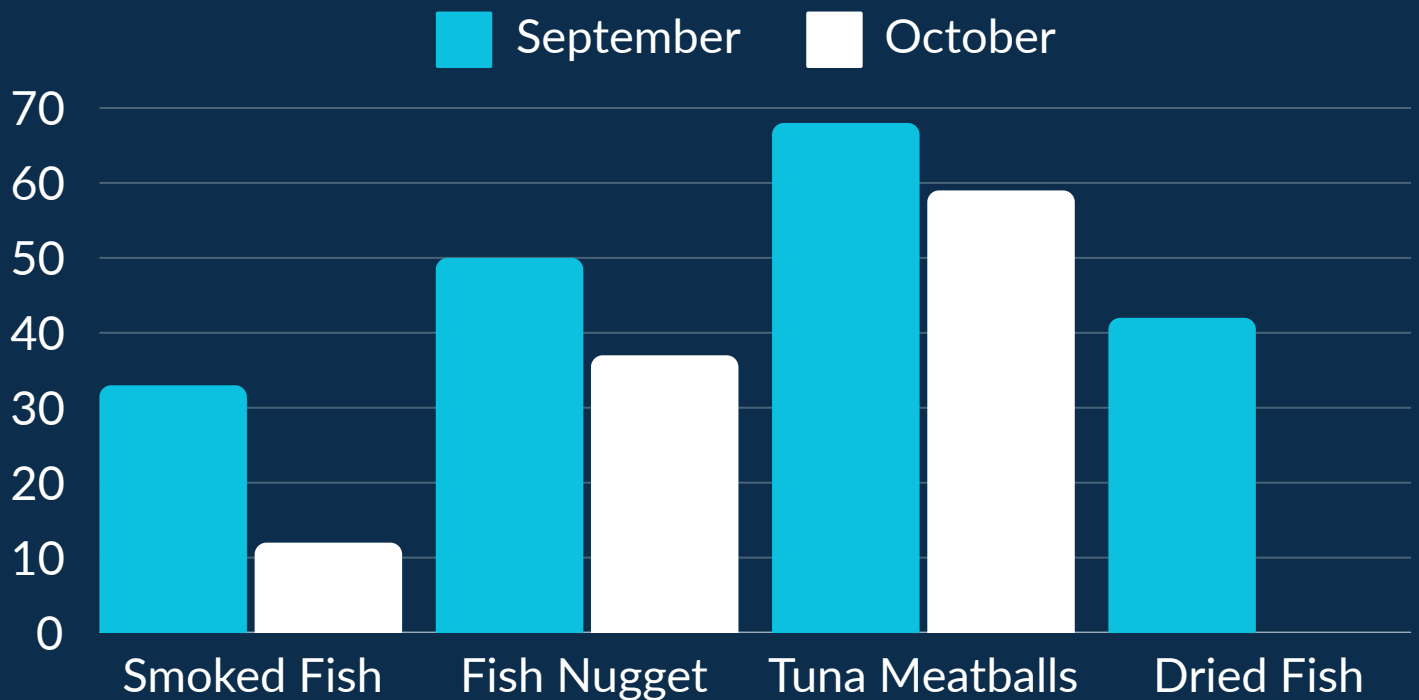
To support environmentally responsible fisheries practices, we have developed various value-added products, ranging from shredded tuna to *titi* corn granola and thresher shark-patterned weaving. These practices were selected to highlight and support existing Indigenous practices. The products were independently produced by the women's group of Lewalu village. Our marketing strategy also continues to improve in supporting the group in accessing new markets. In addition to distributing products to local minimarkets, we collaborate with dive centers to reach out to foreign tourists who prefer sustainable products. As a result, our granola continues to receive demand, which provided additional growth to the small businesses owned by women in the village.



2. Assisting Women Fishmongers



Production quantity of product per package during September-October 2024



Our team has been assisting women fishmongers in Kokar Village. The project has become a pilot in Alor to demonstrate how women can have a meaningful impact on the community, once they are facilitated with resources, skills, and access. This project has so far, created more opportunities for other women's groups in Alor to be heard, seen, and supported.

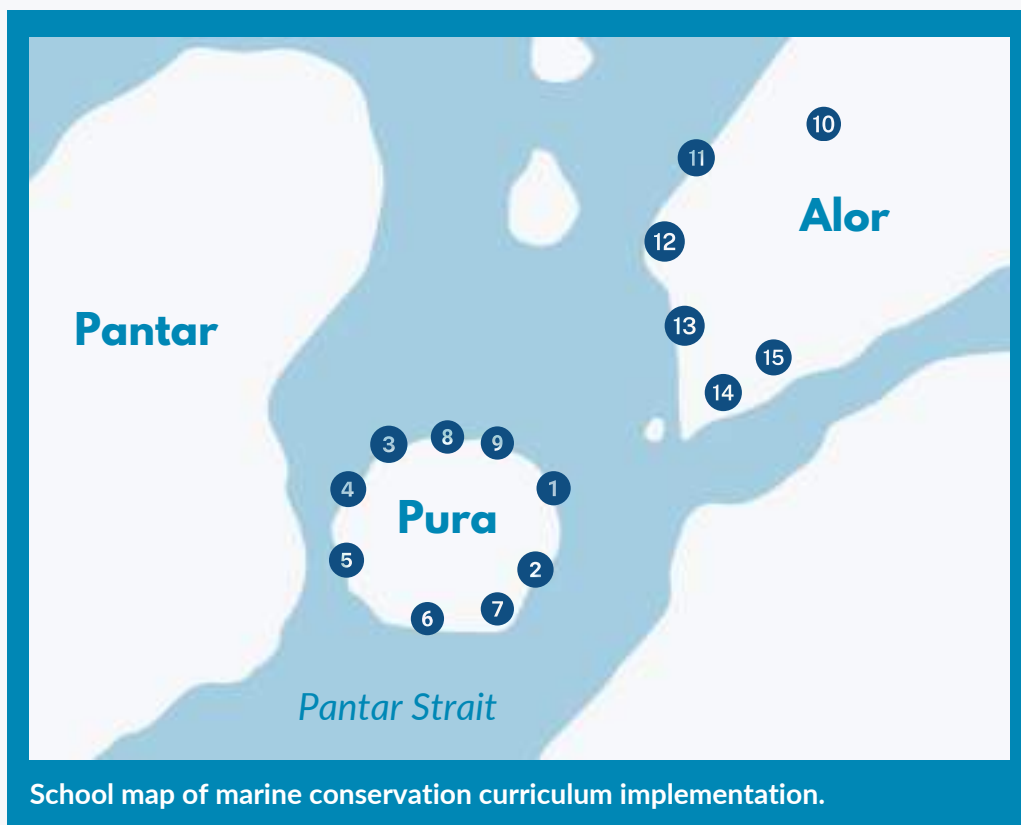
The activities in the project includes training in group management, post-harvest handling, diversification of fish products, financial literacy, and public speaking. The women's group in Kokar can now produce various value-added fish products such as fish nuggets, smoked fish (se'i ikan), tuna meatballs, and dried fish. The four products have been actively marketed since September 2024. For two months running, the group has earned an additional income of **IDR 5,580,000**.



3. Marine Conservation Curriculum



In 2023, we collaborated with the Alor District Education Department to implement a marine conservation curriculum in ten schools around Alor Island and Pura. Over two semesters, the average student pass rate increased from 60% to 67%. The passing percentage was obtained from the students' exam results in the midterm and final semester exams with a Minimum Completion Criteria (MCQ) score of 70.



- 1 Latang Elementary School
- 2 Limarahing 2 Elementary School
- 3 Inpres Dabari Elementary School
- 4 Bira 1 Elementary School
- 5 Bira 2 Elementary School
- 6 Retta 2 Elementary School
- 7 GMIT Retta Elementary School
- 8 Inpres Pura Elementary School
- 9 Limarahing 2 Elementary School
- 10 GMIT Kokar Elementary School
- 11 GMIT 015 Aimoli Elementary School
- 12 Alor Besar Elementary School
- 13 Sebanjar Elementary School
- 14 Alor Kecil Elementary School
- 15 Dulolong Barat Elementary School

The marine conservation curriculum has successfully improved students' understanding and attitudes towards ocean preservation over the year. In 2025, the program will expand to 15 schools across Alor and Pura islands and will include field trips to enhance learning experiences.





Feby: Lautan Calling



[FEBY - Lautan Calling](#) is a short documentary that highlights the inspiring journey of one of Thresher Shark Indonesia's remarkable team members, Yuliana Febriyanti Maubuty, affectionately known as Feby.

This film follows Feby's path, from growing up in a small fishing village in Alor, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, where she began fishing at just 12 years old, to becoming the first female fisher in her community. Despite the challenges, Feby pursued her passion for the ocean by enrolling in a Marine Science and Fisheries degree at a local University, all while continuing to fish daily to support her family.

Feby's story is an inspiring example of local talents who have the potential to bring about positive change for marine conservation and their communities, so long as they are allowed the opportunity to grow and shine.

This film is created by Noemi Merz and Daniel Nicholson

4. Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration





In 2024, we restored mangrove ecosystems in three villages: Fanating, West Welai, and Pailalang. Our efforts included mangrove sowing, planting seedlings, and monitoring tree growth. Between March and September 2024, we successfully planted **6,200 mangrove saplings**. The species planted included *Rhizophora* sp., *Ceriops* sp., and *Bruguiera* sp. Following each planting, we monitored the growth of the saplings. ***One common challenge we encountered was the accumulation of debris around the mangrove saplings.***

Additionally, we conducted mangrove education programs at **20 coastal schools**, village halls, and interfaith churches. These sessions reached **405 students and 442 members of coastal communities**. After the education sessions, students and community members actively participated in mangrove planting, enabling them to better understand and apply the knowledge they had gained.







5.

Expanding Reach: From Alor to Flores

Over the past year, we began to expand our conservation efforts in the Flores region. In the first year, we focused on thresher shark socialization and manta ray catch data collection. The socialization successfully engaged 1,771 students from various schools and 79 coastal community members in three villages in East Flores.

Fishermen in Flores generally do not rely on fishing for thresher sharks. Although they are occasionally found, they are usually bycatch. Flores communities, particularly in Lamakera, Labelen, Watanhura and Lamawai are more likely to catch mobula. During 2024, we recorded 287 mobula bycatch. This data is invaluable for understanding manta ray populations and designing more effective conservation strategies.



A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the background, a large, forested mountain with a prominent peak rises against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The middle ground shows a dark, rocky shoreline with dense green vegetation. In the foreground, a white sailboat with two masts is on the water. The water is a deep blue color.

6 • Unraveling Thresher Sharks of Banda Neira



The Banda Islands fishers have a history of shark fishing. Our conservation efforts involved data collection and socialization with **522 individuals** in **20 fishing villages**. Fishers reported that thresher sharks are now caught mostly as bycatch in purse seine and handling fishing, as they are no longer the main target due to low market prices (Rp10,000/kg). However, fishers noted that thresher shark meat lacks a strong fishy smell, making it ideal for drying and consumption. Despite being aware of the regulations against capturing thresher sharks, fishers express concerns about the possibility of unintentionally catching them.

They generally wish to adhere to these regulations but face practical challenges in managing bycatch. They acknowledge the necessity for innovative methods and technologies to prevent the capture of pelagic thresher sharks.



BAHAYA PLASTIK BAGI PESISIR DAN EKOSISTEM LAUT

Thresher Sharks (Hiu Bendera)

Alopias pelagicus

Masuk kategori "Endangered" (E) dan International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) atau kategori "terancam punah".



Pemanfaatannya diatur dalam Peraturan KP No. 50 Tahun 2020 & Termasuk dalam daftar CITES Appendix II sebagai jenis yang perdagangannya dikendalikan.

Penurunan jumlah populasi hiu bendera selama 10 tahun terakhir: Laporan Penilaian Keabadian dan Perikanan 2019.

50%
50% Benda yang masuk perdagangan ilegal perikanan laut.

Bersifat langka yang hanya ditemukan di laut.

Hiu bendera adalah ikan yang sangat langka.

Mengandung lemak esensial & protein, membantu tubuh sehat.

Di Pulau Malapascua, Filipina, Hiu Bendera menjadi primadona wisata selam yang dapat menghasilkan Rp180 miliar per tahun.

Jaring Terjerat

Hiu bendera sering terjerat rawai dan gill net (jaring insang) karena tidak sensitif (bycatch). Di banda: pancing ulat, pancing dasar, bobo (mini purse seine).



Di Banda hiu bendera dapat ditemukan di sekitar rumpun, skanarep, Digor, Batu Kapal, Selatan Pulau Hatto, Pulau Rhun, maupun di daerah pesisir Pulau Rhun (Tanjung Norst, Karang Ijo, Muka Kampung).

Apa yang katong bisa bekeng?

Kirim informasi berupa foto/video, tanggal, dan lokasi mengenai hiu bendera yang mati ditangkap atau hiu bendera yang kamu temukan.

Melalui Whatsapp/SMS/Telepon

+62 813-8626-4021 (Samsul Basrun)

Photo by Rahmad Larae

Thresher Sharks of Banda Islands



The pelagic thresher shark is a globally endangered species. Their population has declined by up to 80% in Indonesia due to targeted fisheries and bycatch. Thresher Shark Indonesia (TSI) has been working alongside communities in Eastern Indonesia since 2018 and just recently expanded the conservation efforts of this species to the Banda Archipelago, a region rich in history, biodiversity, and, most importantly, its recent discovery of thresher shark habitats. Through our work with communities and government, we have started a bycatch release initiative to protect the thresher shark population in this region.

Check out [our recent film](#) about our work in Banda to save this charismatic species!

[A film by Rahmad Larae](#)

Features

- Yodhikson Marvelous Bang was a delegate and speaker for Young Indigenous Leaders on Climate Change at the One Young World Summit in Montreal, Canada.
- Thresher Shark Indonesia published a new paper on *Frontiers in Fish Science*
- Igo Arianto participated in a meeting with Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Wallacea II grantees in Manado, North Sulawesi.
- Vivekananda Gitandjali was selected as a participant for BEKAL Pemimpin with United in Diversity, Indonesia.
- Rafid Shidqi was awarded the WWF Russell E. Train Fellow in Food Systems for his PhD studies at Duke University.
- “FEBY: Lautan Calling,” by Noemi Merz and Daniel Nicholson awarded as the “Best Piece” in Waterbear Network
- Rafid Shidqi presented the Banda Project Research at the 7th North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB) in Vancouver, British Columbia
- Selat Pantar Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Alor is now an Important Shark and Rays Area in Asia!





Thank you!
**Funders,
Partners,
Volunteers**

Ocean Blue Tree, McPike Zima Foundation, Daughters4Earth by One Earth, OASEA Laboratories, Coral Reef Care, Found at Sea Collective, Save Our Seas Foundation, Rumah Foundation, Marine Conservation Action Fund by New England Aquarium, MAC3 Impact Philanthropies, Darwin Initiative by the UK Government, Flipflop and Treacle, Desy Kadriyani

Air Dive Alor, University of Oxford, Dr Hollie Booth, Rahmad Larae, Moluccas Coastal Care