

ROB STEWART

IMPACT ON THE WORLD



SHARKWATER
EXTINCTION

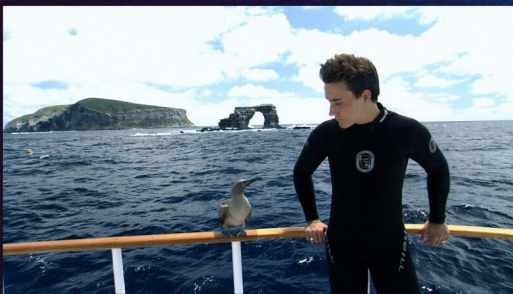
FALL 2018

ROB STEWART: FILMMAKER, AUTHOR, BIOLOGIST, CONSERVATIONIST

Rob was a biologist, conservationist, activist and filmmaker; his greatest impact were his two films, *Sharkwater* and *Revolution*; his books and the millions of supporters that carry on his mission worldwide.

Born in 1979 and raised in Toronto, Rob graduated from the University of Western Ontario. He dedicated his life to conservation, saying: "Conservation is the preservation of human life. And, that, above all else is worth fighting for."

Rob's films, *Sharkwater* and *Revolution*, are still to this day the number 1 and 3 Canadian documentaries of the last 15 years. They have been awarded more than 70 international awards and viewed by over 125 million people.



Rob was the first to bring the devastating issue of shark finning to the world stage. Today most countries have banned shark finning, and he is credited by a shark research group with saving 1/3 of the world's sharks. Consumption dropped by half in Hong Kong alone, and the Chinese government has banned shark fin soup at their banquets.

He taught the world to love and not fear sharks, through his images of diving and hugging the sharks. Diving with sharks is now commonplace — the image of Rob hugging a shark is now iconic.



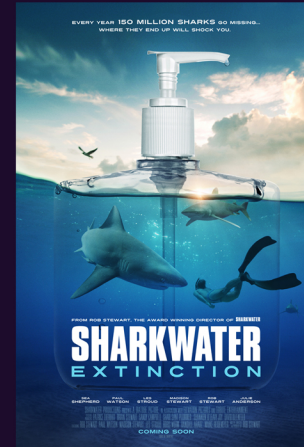
Sharkwater has inspired worldwide bills to ban the importation or sale of fins, including Canadian Senator Michael MacDonald's Shark Fin Importation Ban, as well as bills before the US Senate and House.

Rob changed documentary filmmaking from talking-head films to "action adventure" documentaries, which many filmmakers have now adopted.

When Rob made *Sharkwater*, he wanted to show viewers the beauty of sharks, the oceans and its creatures, so people would love them and work to protect them. But he also wanted to show the devastation, in order to educate people so they would understand the issues and could make better choices.



Revolution was the first film to alert the world to the catastrophic effects of carbon emissions (burning fossil fuels; coal, oil, gas, deforestation). Climate change was well known, but not the resulting Ocean Acidification that would devastate the reefs, kill 25% of the fish populations, and potentially the oceans themselves. Today, this is well known.



His third film, *Sharkwater: Extinction*, will premiere in September and release in October. This follow-up film addresses not just shark finning, but the use of shark products in cosmetics, food products, pet foods, livestock and fertilizer. Rob is the author of *Sharkwater: an Odyssey to Save the Planet and Save the Humans*.

He spawned hundreds of conservation groups, in addition to founding his own: United Conservationists and Fin Free. Now, most conservation organizations have departments that focus on sharks and the oceans. Celebrities have taken up the cause.

He inspired young filmmakers to follow, among them Julia Barnes with *Sea of Life*; Natalie Lucier's *With Love to the Orcas*; and Madison Stewart, Australia's *Shark Girl*.



Awards in his name have followed: The Academy of Canadian Cinema launched the Rob Stewart Award, a 5 year \$25,000-per-year award. Discovery's Planet in Focus launched the annual Rob Stewart Youth Eco-Hero Award, and Oakville's bursary to a student studying marine biology at Dalhousie is now at \$65,000.

Film festivals, universities and conservation groups worldwide, continue to honor Rob with lifetime achievement awards.

Rob changed the thinking of the conservationist movement. "We need to stop fighting against things and start fighting FOR what we want." He remained optimistic... "Fight for what's beautiful."

The US Coast Guard said the search for Rob was the largest they had ever experienced. Thousands offered help. The Coast Guard was so overwhelmed with international press inquiries, two media relations personnel and then their supervisor were dispatched to stay in the Florida Keys to assist.

Richard Branson, Jimmy Buffet, Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherd sent help. Many sent planes, helicopters, and boats.

60,000 watched his funeral online. More than 1100 attended his funeral, before the church was filled to over capacity, with standing room only.



ROB STEWART

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER, FILMMAKER

David Suzuki

"A rare gift to the oceans and the world. There was no one like Rob and his loss is profound. He has inspired a whole generation of young people, many of whom will go on and amplify Rob's work. I've always said, no movement should be utterly dependent on one or two individuals, but of course it takes one or two charismatic individuals to start a movement in the first place, and Rob was it."

George Stroumboulopoulos

TV host and veteran broadcaster

"We should be thankful that in our little galaxy of stars that our life is and our friends are, that we had a sun like Rob at the centre of it. We lost a son, a brother, a mentor."

Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark,

Marine Veterinarian and Shark Biologist, Dalhousie University

"Rob and his work is in the curriculum of my course. I believe Rob did more for making shark conservation important than any scientist to date."

Christopher Chin

Founder, Deeper Blue, COARE

"I have a new hero, and his name is Rob Stewart. Rob has forever changed the way people view sharks and the ocean, it will open their eyes...and, hopefully, their hearts."

Leonardo DiCaprio

"Saddened by the passing of Rob Stewart. The world has lost a man who dedicated his life to protecting our oceans and sharks. He'll be missed."

Dr. Boris Worm,

Dalhousie University, on Rob's impact

*"We are now offering a shark class at Dalhousie (since 2013) and it is always oversubscribed by at least 5 times the enrolment limit. I have more students than I can count come to my office saying they want to study marine biology because they saw **Sharkwater**. A whole generation has been affected."*

Sir Richard Branson

*"I don't think there's a film that's influenced me more than **Sharkwater**." Richard loved **Sharkwater**, and it caused him to launch the "Ocean Elders" to protect the oceans. He remains an ardent advocate and supporter of ocean conservation. After seeing **Sharkwater** and meeting Rob, Rob taught him to dive.*

Senator Michael L MacDonald

*"Bill S-238 (Shark Fin Importation Ban) was inspired by Rob's work. His award winning documentary **Sharkwater** is largely responsible for shedding light on the detrimental effects shark finning is having on the species. Rob committed his life to educating the public about the true nature of and importance of our oceans ecosystems."*



Sharkwater Productions Inc.

71 Barber Greene Rd.
Toronto ON M3C 2A2
Contact: info@sharkwater.com

www.sharkwater.com
www.therevolutionmovie.com

