



# 'BABAGANOUSH'

MV-MA-0033

Babaganoush is an adult, male reef manta ray who has been sighted over 200 times by our Maldivian Manta Ray Project team since 2005. We have always been able to recognise Baba easily due to a missing clasper and big scar on his right pectoral fin from an old shark bite (circled below in orange).

In November 2018 he gave us a terrible scare when he showed up in Hanifaru Bay sporting some fresh and very serious injuries inflicted by a boat propeller. Manta rays have an incredible ability to heal quickly from large wounds to their pectoral fins, however as these injuries had cut into the main body cavity and exposed his internal organs, we were extremely concerned that he would get a fatal infection. As it was the end of Baa Atoll's manta season, we had to wait until 2019 to find out if Baba would survive...



November 2018



May 2019

In May 2019 Babaganoush arrived back in Hanifaru Bay looking healthy and healed!



# 'FARU KOKAA'

*'Reef Butterfly'*

MV-MB-0568



Faru Kokaa translates from the local language in the Maldives (Dhivehi) to 'Reef Butterfly' and there couldn't be a more apt name for this beautiful oceanic manta ray (*Mobula birostris*). First identified on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, Faru Kokaa was then re-sighted the next day. This adult female is sexually mature which we know from the presence of mating scars on the underside of her left pectoral wing.

The Manta Trust research team were able to take accurate measurements of Faru Kokaa using a stereo-video photogrammetry unit and she measured in at 5.29m wing span.

The name Faru Kokaa was chosen by a student from Baa Dharavandhoo School during the Maldivian Manta Ray Project's marine education programme called Moodhu Madharusaa (*Ocean School*).





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