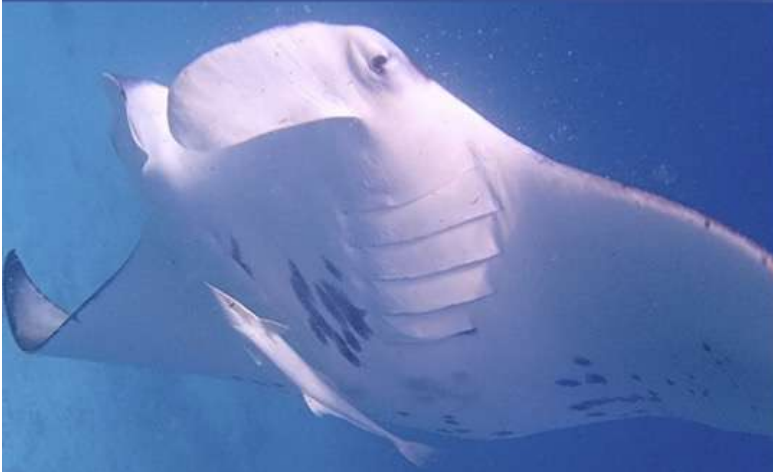


Maldivian Manta Ray Project



Raa Atoll | Monthly Update January 2021



Meet Maamunagau's 122nd Newly Identified Manta

Manta Trust
Researchers using
Photogrammetry
to accurately
measure the
wingspan of the
Raa Atoll Mantas.



During January the Maamunagau Manta Team recorded 134 sightings of 61 confirmed manta ray individuals in Raa Atoll.

- ✦ 55% of sightings were within Maamunagau Lagoon.
- ✦ 96 manta rays were recorded feeding, 31 cleaning and 3 engaging in courtship.

The team have also been collecting data on the size of manta rays sighted in Maamunagau. To do this a specially calibrated camera system is used to capture to the measure wingspan of manta rays.



Manta of the Month

Our manta of the month for January is a brand new individual never before recorded in the Maldives and is our first new manta of Maamunagau in 2021. New manta rays are added to the Manta Trust data base when we capture a belly ID photo but can't match its unique spot pattern to any of our existing individuals known to the Maldives region. We can't wait to start seeing this manta more and learn more about her.



Maldivian Manta Ray Project



Raa Atoll | Monthly Update February 2021



Each month the Manta Researchers collect photographic ID's of the manta rays unique spot pattern on their bellies.

During February the Maamunagau Manta Team recorded 555 sightings of reef manta rays in Raa Atoll.

- ✦ 96% of sightings were within Maamunagau Lagoon.
- ✦ The primary behavior observed was feeding.

The team also began deploying Remote Underwater Video devices (RUVs) to capture what the mantas are getting up to when we are not around.

Manta of the Month

Kids Drawing was first discovered in Maamunagau Lagoon in 2019, he is a juvenile male and one of our most characteristic manta rays in Maamunagau. His unique spot pattern looks like something our youngest guests might paint in planet trekkers, inspiring his name. To date we have seen this friendly manta 42 times, he is also one of the mantas we frequently capture on our RUVs. Kids drawing loves to show off his belly and definitely isn't camera shy!



Meet Kids Drawing

MV-MA-4723

