

Manta Ray Reporting in French Polynesia
<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/other-good-stuff>



Mobula alfredi

The manta trust organization gratefully receives reports from divers around French Polynesia to add to their database of information on tracking Manta Rays.

Most of the mantas that you see in FP are the smaller reef mantas (*Mobula alfredi*) but in the Marquesas are two species - reef mantas and giant mantas (*Mobula birostris*). The giant mantas have the largest brain of any fish. The giant mantas grow to have a wingspan of 7+ meters.

How can you help increase the knowledge base on Mantas?

Each manta rays underside is like a fingerprint and no two are alike. It's these markings that mantas are cataloged and tracked.



Manta Alfredi ID picture

Take a photo of the underside of a manta and send the photo along with the following information. For the pictures to send, it is also good to have pictures from the entire animal (even from above) to see the sex, if they have wounds or remora or any details that could help the researchers understand its life.

See <https://www.mantatrust.org/idthemanta> for additional identification photo tips

Included with each photograph supply the following information.

Your name

Your email address

Date of sighting

Time of sighting

Location of sighting

Island Name

Island location

Lat / Long if available

Photo of the Manta Ray

Send the info & photo to frenchpolynesia@mantatrust.org also copy Cecile cecile.berthe@hotmail.fr

The point of contact in French Polynesia for Mantas

<http://www.requinsdepolynesie.com/index.php>.

A special note from Cecile Berthe from the Observatoire des requins de Polynésie(ORP : Manta rays are protected in French Polynesia since 2012. And since 2017, specific authorization is needed to take pictures or movies from protected species in French Polynesia (not only Manta but also sharks, whales, turtle, etc.).

The Observatoire des requins de Polynésie(ORP) has a special authorization that allows our observers to take pictures.

It would be important to mention it in your file, so that **people indicate in their mail that they are participating in the ORP database.**

Manta Trust is our partner, with experience with these animals in many others places in the world. <https://www.mantatrust.org/french-polynesia>

<https://swimwithmantas.org/> with the "10 steps-guide, How to sustainably interact with manta rays, wherever you are in the world"

If you submit a photo that they do not have in their database then you get to name the manta. One of the mantas Linda submitted from Amanu was not in the db and she named her Tehota Iti (Little Sugar)

A few other Manta shots of Tehota Iti

