

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO TAKES A BITE OUT OF SHARK AND STINGRAY MYTHS AND MYSTERIES

Event to coincide with Discovery Channel's 20th Anniversary Celebration of Shark Week

FRESNO, Ca. – In conjunction with the Zoo's Stingray Bay exhibit and Discovery Channel's 20th anniversary celebration of Shark Week, Fresno Chaffee Zoo visitors will explore the myth and mysteries of sharks and stingrays on Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29. Sharks and stingrays are both cartilaginous marine fish, meaning they have a boneless skeleton made of a tough, elastic substance much like the tip of our nose. In fact, sharks and rays are so closely related that the catshark is closer in DNA makeup to the family of rays than to other shark species.

Sharks and their ancestors have presided over the seas for nearly 400 million years, but in the wild today shark populations are suffering greatly from human activity. Shark and stingray activities will teach visitors that these misunderstood animals are not the blood-thirsty monsters of popular lore. Activities include:

- Biofacts such as shark jaws and stingray barbs
- Giveaways including trading cards, books, iron-on decals and Seafood Watch cards
- Craft projects

Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience opened March 31 and continues through September 30, 2007. Stingray Bay is the ultimate hands-on experience, allowing visitors to touch the rays as they gracefully swim in their specially constructed 14,500 gallon pool. Stingray Bay houses cownose stingrays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) and Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*), including six young rays born at the Zoo in late May. Admission to Stingray Bay is \$1 with regular Zoo admission. Fresno Chaffee Zoo members and children under 2 years of age are free.