

Coconut shell: the death bell for sharks

The coconut tree is synonymous with sea beach and island nations. The tree is present across the tropics and it has diverse economic, environmental, and social relations with the communities. One such interesting use is in “Shell Rattling” where a bunch of coconut shells loosely attached through a string is used for luring sharks for hunting. In the islands of Papua-new Guinea, local fishermen use “Larung”/”Tui-ipu” made of coconut shells, to make sounds similar to cries of sea-birds around small fishes or traveling horse mackerel fishes. This rattling sound in the water attracts shark towards the spot and fishermen catch them with a noose attached to a curved stick.



Photo: Eric Lafforgue

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