



## March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 – A New Shipment of Giant Clams for Koh Tao

Every year for the past few years on Koh Tao as a community we have received Giant Clams as part of our marine conservation programs on the reef. This year we took delivery of around another 1000 Giant Clams.

The giant clams are provided from a project sponsored by the Queen of Thailand in Prachuap Khiri Khan, 3 hrs south of Bangkok to be transferred onto Koh Tao's reefs in the coming years.

It was a busy day as the clams made the journey by truck and ferry and taxi to Koh Tao. In the morning a group of divers from Crystal Dive, Eco Koh Tao, New Heaven and Big Bubble went to a location in the sheltered south, placed 15 1 square metre steel cages on the bottom and lined them with rubble in preparation to receive the new babies.



Ecodiver Julia Stewart, Kailash Cook and Marine Conservation Koh Tao Chairman Chad Scott unpacking the giant clams to be transported out onto our reefs.



Devrim Zahir from New Heaven helping to unpack the giant clams



Wotjek Lukasik unpacking giant clams

Once the clams arrived it was important to get them into their new home quickly. 750 went to new homes in protective cages where they will have a chance to grow up big & strong before being transferred out onto Koh Tao's natural reefs.



Local boy Kailash Cook showing one of the clams before placing it in its protective cage



Ecodiver Petra Vasony and Kailash Cook arranging the giant clams in their protective cages.

The other 250 have already made a home on the Reefs of Chalok Baan Khao and their survival & growth rates will be monitored.

Giant Clams help improve water quality by filtering large amounts of water every day and with more and more of them arriving on Koh Tao each year hopefully they can help us preserve the water around Koh Tao.

Special thanks to Marine Conservation Koh Tao and New Heaven for arranging the logistics for the dives. Thanks also to Ecodivers Petra Vasony, Julia Stewart and Wotjek Lukasik for their tireless efforts during the day. It was a long but fun day.

Giant Clam Program Associates

Eco Koh Tao [www.ecokohtao.com.html](http://www.ecokohtao.com.html)

Crystal Dive [www.crystaldive.com](http://www.crystaldive.com)

Marine Conservation Koh Tao [www.marineconservationkohtao.com](http://www.marineconservationkohtao.com)

By Nathan Cook – [nath@ecokohtao.com](mailto:nath@ecokohtao.com)



One of the 'released' giant clams after it has been placed out on the reef.