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A leopard seal spotted in Rikitea



Tahiti, October 16, 2025. The species had never before been filmed or photographed in our waters.

It is the page of the Ocean Guardians Network that disseminated this information this Thursday at noon on social networks. "A boater was surprised to observe a leopard seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) around his sailboat in Rikitea," explains the society of volunteer referents. "The animal stayed near the boat for more than 30 minutes before moving away."

For the Oceania association, this would be "the first observation documented by videos confirming the species in French Polynesia". "A previous sighting had been reported and published in a scientific paper in Rapa, but no direct visual evidence had been recorded within our sanctuary until now," continues the Guardians of the Ocean Network's Facebook page.

"Its presence remains exceptional, as this species usually lives in the icy waters of Antarctica and is rarely observed beyond the sub-Antarctic areas," the commentary concludes.

Written by Bertrand PREVOST on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 1:44 PM | Read 2730 times



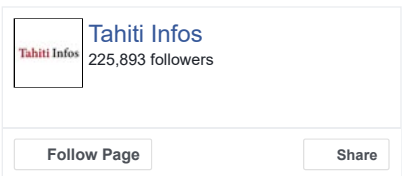
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