

## Project Update: May 2014

This project identified three aggregation areas of elasmobranchs in northern Peru. These serve as a nursery ground for smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) between December and May - pregnant females appear during December and January. Mobulid rays (*Mobula japonica*, *M. munkiana*, *M. tarapacana* and *M. thurstoni*) also occur in these areas; *M. japonica* predominates. Their population structure is composed mainly by juveniles- neonates are observed during January and March.

The hammerhead fishery targets neonates and juveniles (96%) and pregnant females (6%). The mobulids fishery captures juvenile (74%) and adults (26%).

The sites in Lambayeque and Piura show great elasmobranch diversity: thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus* and *A. vulpinus*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), Chilean and Peruvian eagle ray (*Myliobatis chilensis* and *M. peruvianus*), and whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*). According to IUCN, four are Vulnerable, two are Near Threatened, and two are Data Deficient.

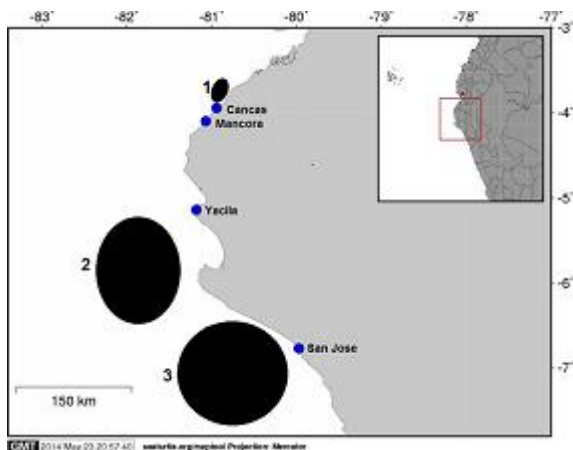


Figure 1. Map of the aggregation areas in northern Peru. Black circles: 1) in Tumbes (1-5 miles offshore), 2) in Piura (50- 100 miles offshore), 3) in Lambayeque (12-100 miles offshore). Blue circles: landing points where the samples were taken.



Figure 2. Smooth hammerhead shark pregnant females.



Figure 3. Mobulid rays



Figure 4. Peruvian boats that catch hammerhead shark and mobulid rays



Figure 5. Smooth hammerhead shark new born - 2 feet long