

Project Update: December 2015

As part of the core objectives for this project, which are involve research, conservation and education terms.

During the whole summer I was able to collect more manta IDs mostly from different submitters as result of conferences they are getting involved with the project, and got more involve with educational activities in Isla Mujeres, where important ecology activities like the Whale Shark Festival 2015, and got the invitation to participate as an advisor to solve the main concerns about the impact of human activities in the main cities around Riviera Maya like Cancun, Playa del Carmen and Tulum.

It was important to participate on this activities to spread more information about manta rays, the project and the importance of local people getting involved in order to increase awareness and knowledge about the marine ecosystems in this part of Mexico.

Whale shark Festival: Conference Manta rays in the Mexican Caribbean Annual Environmental Congress:

- Advisor for kids that present the main concerns they identify in their municipalities related with the ecosystems around their town or city.
- Conference of Manta Rays in the Caribbean.

Furthermore the alliance, support and contribution with the Tourism Department of Isla Mujeres, is generating good things for example to establish the beginning of the English lessons for free for local people involved with the two main marine parks around the island, Whale Shark Reserve and Contoy Island National Park.

Data collection as well description of daily weather patterns was one of the main activities done during last summer in order to register all information related with El Nino effects on this area, which brought tons of sargassum and plastic debris like never seen before, not at least on the amounts of this year, which can be one of the main reasons of less upwelling on the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico waters that affects whale shark and manta ray sightings, further data information needs to be collected and analyse other factors in order to give a correct conclusions.



