

Project Update: October 2015

This is the first report of the project “Characterization of Mobulid ray fishery in Northern Peru through field observation and DNA barcoding techniques”, which is promoted by The Rufford Foundation as a “Small grant”, and which is conducted by the NGO Amigos de la Naturaleza and the NGO ProDelphinus. The report covers the period from July 22th and October 16th 2015.

During the first month (last week of July - August) coordination work and capacitation of on board and port observers were made. Templates, where relevant data should be recorded, and sampling protocols were developed in order to obtain all required information for the project. The documents were shown and explained to observers in each port. Each observer also received material for sampling and data recording (Dissection kit, alcohol, vials, cooler containers, markers and cameras).

Between August and September, a first visit on each study site were conducted. The project were introduced to local fishermen in order to explain our concern about the conservation status of mobulid species as well as the importance of collect more information to support further conservation measures.

In October a second workshop was conducted in each port. We shared information and experience with fishermen about morphological identification of mobulid species and to refresh the goal of the project.

Up until now, we have registered five fishing trips in San Jose and three in Zorritos. We have collected in total 25 correct samples in Zorritos and 15 in San Jose, which do not reflects low sampling effort not low captures, but some errors or debilities during field sampling. These problems have been identified and solved already. In this sense we estimate a better sampling collection during the next months.

For the next two months, we expect increase the sampling, on board and land (landing sites) observations for at least two trips per month and 20 samples per month in each port. We also will conduct two workshops per study zone, concerning informative biological aspects and conservation status of mobulids.



Figure 1. Images of the first and second workshop in Zorritos and San Jose.

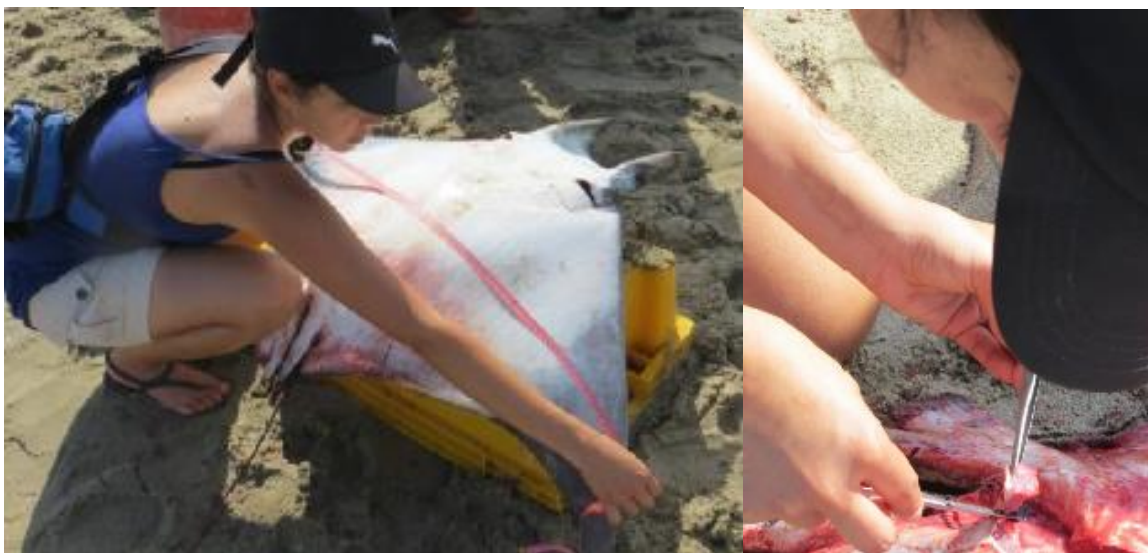


Figure 2. Images of sampling process in Zorritos.