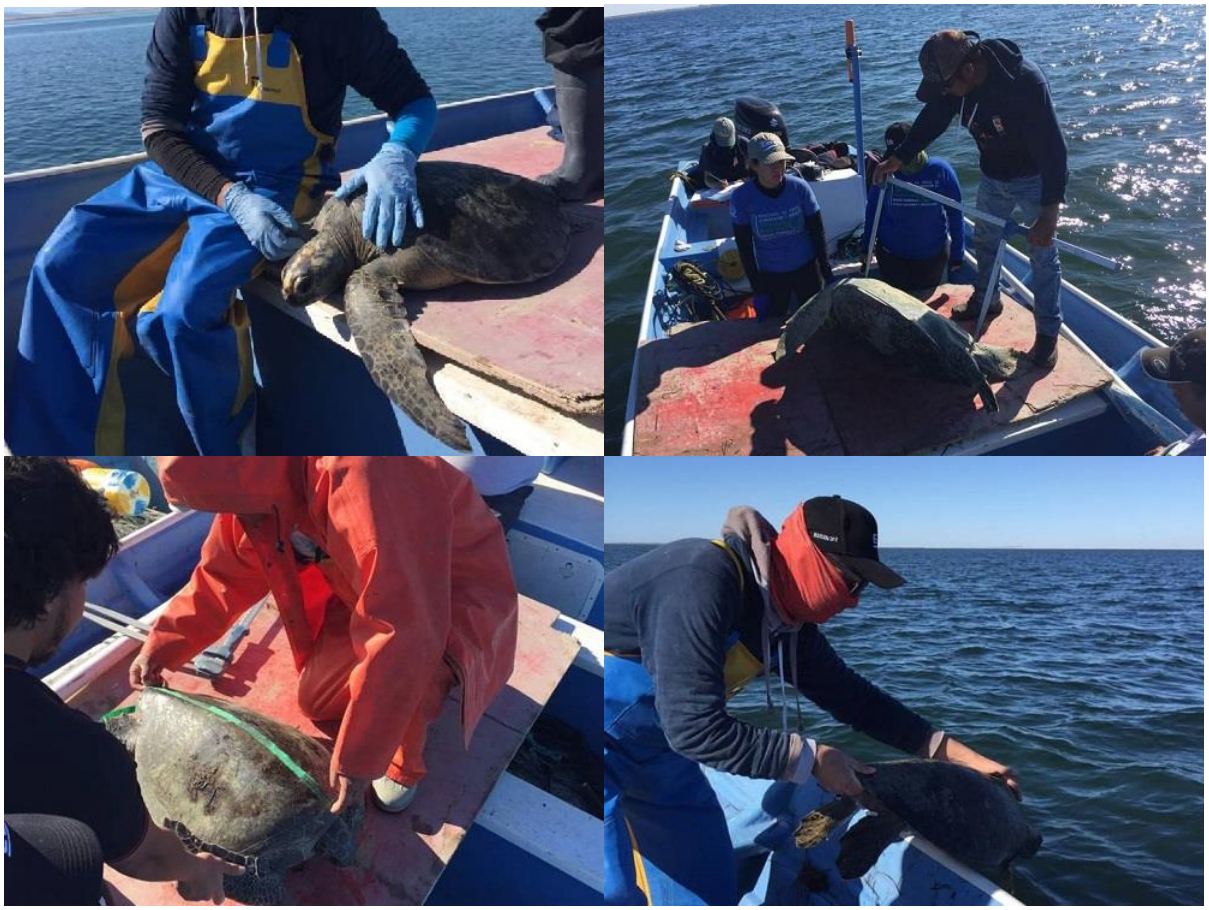
**Project Update: December 2017**

During the week of November 22nd, 23rd and 24th 2017, we worked in the laboratory on samples of hematology, bacteriology and toxicology, previously collected in the field with these samples, we are generating local hematology values and determining the presence of bacteria, their pathogenic levels and if there is presence of toxic pollutants.

From November 27th to 30th and from December 4th to 8th 2017, we continued with the monitoring and captured nine sea turtles, seven juveniles and two adults, in the first week. In the second week, we captured five sea turtles (four juveniles and one adult) which were evaluated to determine their health status (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9). All the turtles were evaluated with a physical examination, their body temperature was recorded, their heart rate was recorded and samples were collected for hematology, bacteriology, toxicology and molecular biology. Later their morphometric data were registered and they were released. The samples obtained were sent to the laboratory of Marine Botany and Oceanography of the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS), where are being processed since their arrival.

On December 8th 2017, on our return from monitoring, unfortunately we found a dead sea turtle stranded in an advanced state of decomposition. Even so, a partial necropsy was performed to rule out the cause of death due to the ingestion of plastics or evidence of anthropogenic causes (pictured below left). During the necropsy, stomach and intestinal contents were collected (pictured below right), which is being analysed to determine the type of diet and to confirm if there is no presence of plastic.


From December 11th to 15th, another field monitoring was carried out, in which 10 turtles (seven juveniles and three adults) were captured (pictured below), which were evaluated to determine their health the same way that was mentioned previously and finally they were released. It is important to point out that some members of local communities, authorities and students were invited to participate in this monitoring.

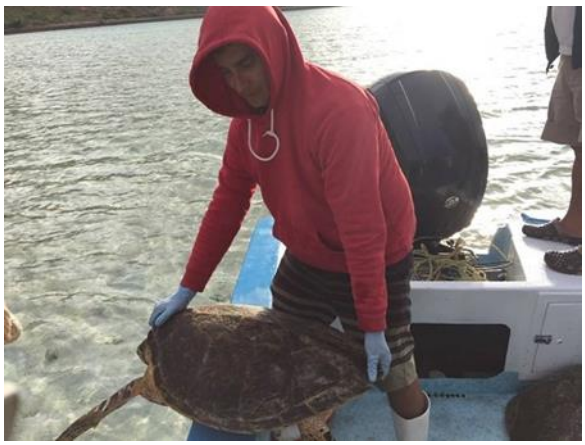


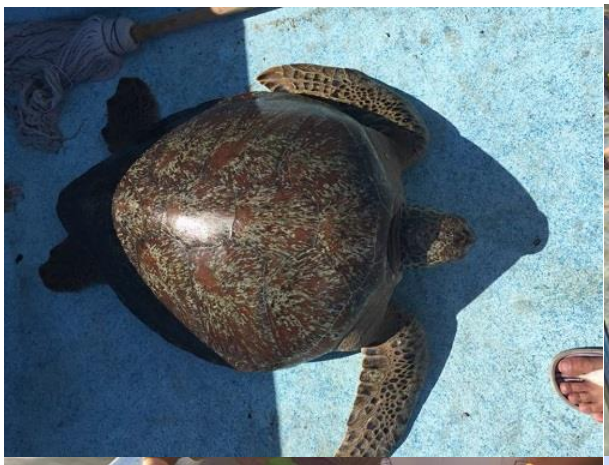
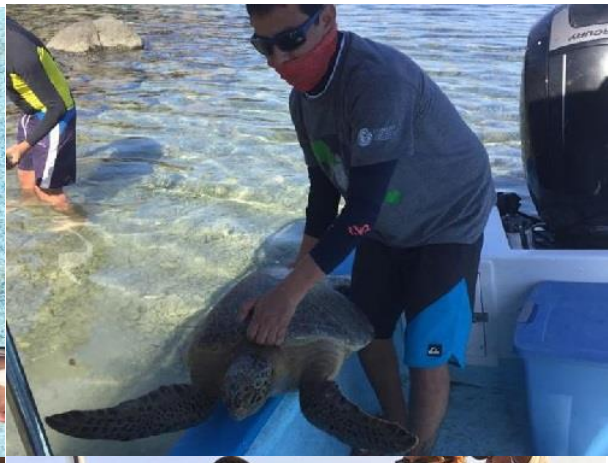
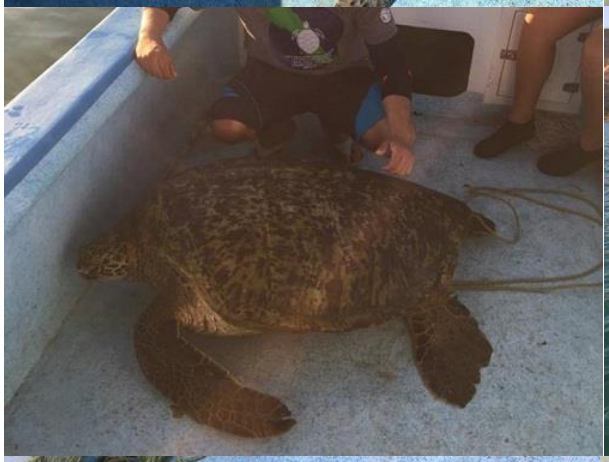
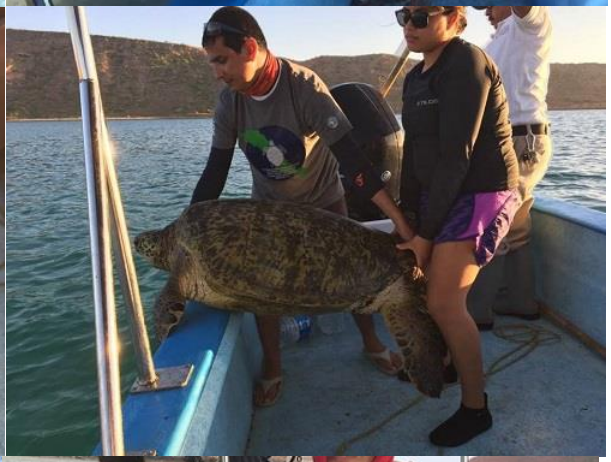
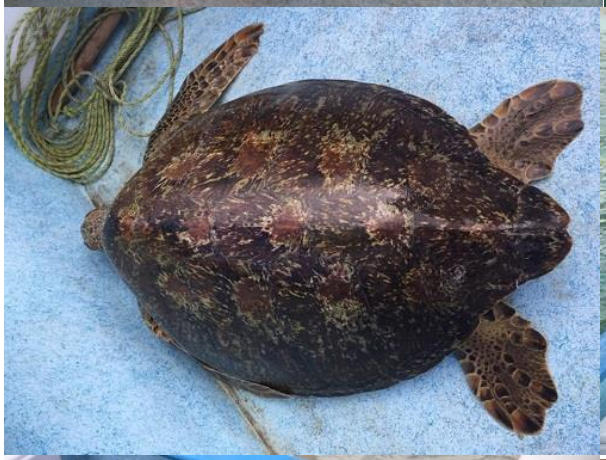
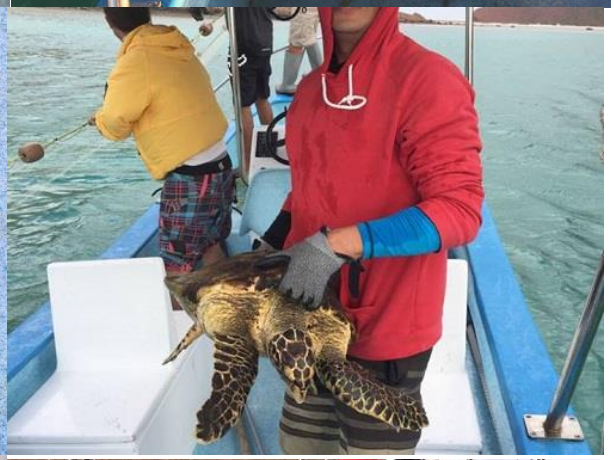
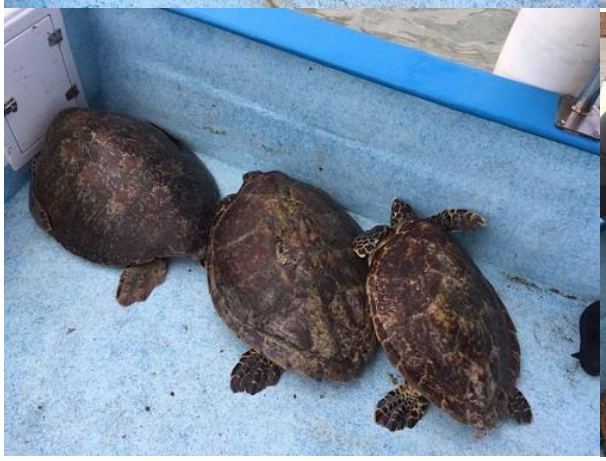
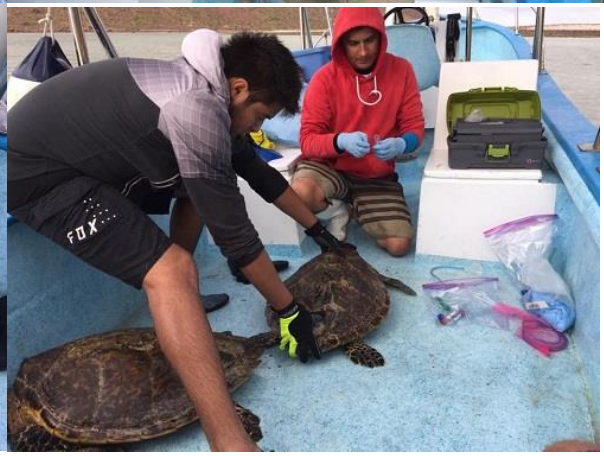
From December 18th to 22nd 2017 we worked in the laboratories of Oceanography and Marine Botany of the UABCS in the process of the samples collected. Complete blood counts were made and samples were processed for bacteriology and toxicology.

From December 22nd 2017 to January 3rd 2018 we stopped activities since the university went on vacation and we did not have access to the laboratories.

On January 4th, 5th and 8th 2018, we returned to the lab work and continued to process the samples and update the databases.

During this month, we have the meeting with different authorities to present our progress and some results that we are generating this week. Also, we plan to conduct the first monitoring this year.

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