

## Project Update – February 2017

During the first official month of the project, we have purchased all the necessary equipment in order to perform the high-quality field studies in this winter-spring time. Besides, we went to the short field work for 2 days. We have prospected local beaches in the Neum bay in order to search for egg cases for oviparous cartilaginous fish. Also, we have established cooperation with local fisherman in order to collect bycatch dead samples for further studies. The main goal of this is to improve fisheries in order to prevent bycatch as much as we can, and to help the fisherman to recognize at least pregnant females and release them back into the water immediately.

I have dedicated this month for media support of the studies involved in the project itself. In the large article published in Dnevni Avaz (the widely read newspaper in our country sold in over 500.000 copies) I have discussed the importance of research and conservation of elasmobranchs in Bosnia and Herzegovina through this project supported by Rufford Foundation. During my live appearance on the N1 I have discussed the current studies on pathology and radiology the bycatch samples founded dead during the first studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina (four species of batoids), and another sample that we have received from Montenegro (deep sea rough shark). We are also in negotiations with the Al Jazeera television, as well as the Deutsche Welle – they are willing to come to film short report of this project and the current conservation efforts that we are doing here.

LINK 1 for the article written in Bosnian, Serbian and/or Croatian language on Dnevni Avaz:

<http://www.avaz.ba/clanak/279598/kod-ulcinja-pronadena-jedna-od-najrjedih-vrsta-ajkule-u-neumu-bliski-susreti-s-razama>



LINK 2 for the live appearance on the N1 TV (regional CNN partner):

<http://ba.n1info.com/a143284/Video/Info/Cas-biologije-u-Novom-danu-na-N1.html>