

## Project Update: November 2017

By the beginning of this month I have finished macroscopic pathological, histopathological and radiological studies on the by-catch samples from Neum bay.



As this was unique research and very first detailed health assessment of the wild-living elasmobranch species - obtained data led to significant discoveries about the ecopathology of observed taxa, primarily catsharks and stingrays. At the moment I am preparing papers which supposed to be sent to the journal in the beginning of December and supposed to be published in the spring of 2018.

After extremely successful meeting with the government representatives in September 2017, during the entire month I have continued to develop the proposal of appropriate legislation in order to protect seven species of sharks and five species or rays which life in Neum Bay. The proposal should be finished by the end of November 2017, while the final meeting with the both Federal Ministry of environment and tourism and the Municipality of Neum should be scheduled for the beginning of December 2017. Besides, I wrote an original article based on the studies conducted in this project, in order to participate at the 27th Rufford Conference "From mountains to deep seas: Research & Conservation Beyond Boundaries" in Bar, Montenegro from 3rd - 6th February 2018. Through a 20 minute presentation I will justify results and the importance of this study, as well as the possible application of the methods that I have set though this project in order to conserve similar species/habitats in this part of Europe. Although planned for October 2017, I had to delay the workshops at to the end of November 2017 due to the extremely large amount of histopathological slides to be analysed.