

## Project Update - August 2017

In August, Deutsche Welle, German international broadcaster, was filming our research activities conducted in order to establish long-term conservation of elasmobranch species, both at the field and laboratory. Through mentioned report our activities, conducted by this project, have recognised as extremely important for the environment and conservation. The report has been filmed during our planned field research in the Neum Bay (at four different sites proposed by the project), as well as on the Laboratory for Pathology and Clinic for Veterinary Radiology and Physical Therapy of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, partner institution from Sarajevo. During the mentioned field studies we have not encountered any elasmobranch species. Albeit not planned with our project, our research team decided to make two dives at the outer part of the Klek peninsula in order to compare habitats and different threats to wildlife.

Besides, I have met the director of Port of Ploče (Croatia), which is only 20 km from Neum Bay and is the second largest port in the eastern Adriatic Sea. We have discussed potential threats from the port to the marine life in nearby area, primarily sharks, skates and rays. Our meeting also attracted media attention. Although planned in October (since we have gathered much more information than expected) we have arranged the first meeting with the representatives from Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, as well as the representatives of the Neum municipality in order to discuss the further legal protection of elasmobranch species through action plan/strategy for conservation and sustainable management. This event supposed to happen between 15th and 20th September 2017. Our team is also working extremely hard on the publishing of the preliminary results in the fields of ecology and pathology (including histopathology and immunohistochemistry).



Research team during the filming of the report for the Deutsche Welle within the Third field studies. We have discussed the importance of proper in-situ species conservation.



Hrvoje and Andrej before the research dive performed in the marine part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of this study was to record the habitats and anthropogenic pressures for elasmobranch species. This dive was also included in the DW report.



Discussion with the director of Port of Ploče in the front of the ports main building. Director highlighted their efforts for the protection of the environment and have highlighted the importance our efforts to save the elasmobranch species.