

Project Update: September 2018

Since June 2018, the project activities have been ongoing as it is planned, except some changes and displacements in fieldwork schedule due to fishermen obligations. As Montenegro is a country for which tourism is very important, most of the people in coastal zone are undertaking activities related to it during the summer. Many fishermen are using their boats as a taxi and for panorama visits during the summer months, so fishing is not on their first place. Despite this, big game fishing and trawling are in common during the summer because this is their most important part of the year, so the fieldwork was mainly done with them, but also with other two chosen fleet segments.



Until now, nine species of sharks have been recorded as present in Montenegrin coastal waters. More than 300 individuals of these species have been measured. The most abundant species is small-spotted catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) which is caught in particular with trawls, but by other gears, too.



In the domain of education, project website has been designed and is available at: <https://mnesharks.wordpress.com>. As Mediterranean countries are celebrating the Day of the Coast on 25th September each year, our Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management is making an educational campaign with workshops for children and educational posters for schools and institutions. This year, we agreed with them to promote sharks as a theme for this celebration and we already started to make materials and organise workshops together. This will be significant for the project promotion as majority of the country, especially coastal communities will hear real facts about sharks. Project will be presented on the upcoming RSG conference in Serbia at the end of September 2018. Furthermore, we got an abstract acceptance notification from the organisers of FAO/GFCM FishForum conference that will be held in Rome, Italy in December 2018 and is a significant international event in marine fisheries science.