

Project Update: August 2018

During the first 2 months, we have organised our work plan and conducted meetings in fishing communities at Cabedelo (Ponta de Matos Beach), João Pessoa (Penha Beach) and Conde (Jacumã Beach). Main activities were the project presentation, definition of team members, workshop training on species identification and equipment and methods to be used.

Hazardous weather conditions interfered with the fieldwork plan in July 2018. Heavy rain and wind narrowed down the fishing activities and, consequently, the observational data collection. We have only recorded data for Cabedelo, due to the fact their fishery occurs near the coastline in sheltered waters.

We recorded 41 georeferenced sea turtle sightings, in which *Chelonia mydas* (n=24) were predominant. In 12 records the species were undefined, in while *Caretta caretta* (n=3) and *Eretmochelys imbricata* (n=2) were less frequently sighted. Despite *Trichechus manatus* are not our study-group, they were recorded (n=4) in Cabedelo. It suggests that sea turtles and manatees may share an important feeding ground for herbivores. The possible seagrass and algae substrate will be confirmed during the snorkeling effort in October 2018.



Meeting in Jacumã fishing community to train fishermen team on sea turtle species identification.



In-water monitoring of sea turtles sightings in Ponta de Matos Beach.