

Project Update: October 2021

On August 7 2021, a workshop was held for fishers from Brus Laguna in the Moskitia of Honduras. The main objective of this workshop was to get to know the local perspective about coastal marine resources and shark fishing. To have a greater participation, an adaptation of the methodology called "The Whole System in the Hall" was changed, which through events of the past, present and future of the community intends to guide the ideas of the participants towards solutions to the problem that is being exposed. As the main problem, the fishers identified little government support, overfishing, disrespect for the fishing closures of some species, the use of trammel nets in breeding sites and poor management of solid waste. Likewise, they themselves constitute the need for a fishing order in the area, as well as respect for sizes and prohibit the use of trammel nets in certain areas. At the end of the workshop and after identifying these needs, they were asked to make commitments that they would be willing to fulfill, one of these commitments is aimed at not capturing prohibited species and compliance with DIGEPESCA (Fisheries Authorities) and Merchant Marine guidelines. The workshop was also a great opportunity to meet and connect with fishers who we hope we can train for future field work.



Fig. 1 Team setting up paper boards for workshop, each one represents the past, present and future.

On the policy level we were invited by the Fisheries Department (DIGEPESCA) to revise and provide recommendations on the current legislation on incidental captures which in 2016 allowed incidental captures to be commercialised. The first revision of the draft was done in conjunction with the Shark Working Group on Oct 12, 2021. We

expect the final draft to be sent to congress in early 2022. The revisions made will allow more oversight on the incidental captures and gear utilised and has strict emphasis on traceability.



Fig. 2 Group discussions between the facilitators and the fishers