## Project Update: January 2023

During January 2023 we met with the local fishers, shared updated results and experiences, listened to their needs and concerns, and reinforced the use of proper turtle management techniques. We presented the project logo (see November 2022 update), we also gave out project official t-shirts and stickers, which will be placed in their vehicles and panga boats. We emphasised our commitment to them and the project and acknowledged their work by giving out participation awards, as well as awards to the top three fishers with the most captured and biggest turtle captured during the 10 years of the project. During this meeting we had the participation of 36 local fishers/divers (Fig. 1)



Figure 1: Team members Farid Zavala and Israel Llamas with local Fishers wearing project T-shirts.

After meeting with the fishers, it was as if everything aligned, ocean conditions were good and motivation was high, and less than two weeks after, we had six captures, five corresponding to new individuals and one to a recapture (1 year, 3 months). We held hawksbill turtle workshops with volunteers, locals, tourists and students who visited the camp, where we talked about the projects, specie's biology and importance, as well as the importance of local fisher's participation, we then measured, tagged and released the turtles (Fig. 2).



Figure 2: Team members Farid Zavala and Sebastian Ramirez during workshop with students and volunteers in Campamento Tortuguero Mayto.

## **Attachments:**



Project T-shirt design



Farid Zavala handing out T-shirts and stickers to local fishers.



Farid Zavala Handing out Most Captures Awards. 1st place: Fernando "Nando" Joya, 2nd place: Antonio "Toño" de la Cruz, 3rd place: Florencio "Puñitos" Nuñez.



Farid Zavala handing out Biggest Turtle Captured Award to Ricardo "El Merillo" Numbo.

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Fishers' Reunion attendance list.



Farid Zavala During Turtle workshop with locals, students, volunteers and tourists in Tehuamixtle bay.



Hawksbill turtle being released in Tehuamixtle bay with locals, students, volunteers and tourists.