

Project Update: January 2024

With the beginning of the project, questionnaires were initiated and almost finished, along the coastline between Enez in the north and Adana in the south. In addition to the major four estuaries, 23 locations with small freshwater outputs or lagoonal systems were also visited, and questionnaires were conducted. The preliminary results indicate that study areas as well as some of the freshwater output areas play an important role for some elasmobranch species as either a nursery/breeding or feeding ground. According to fishers, these species also start to come close to the freshwater outputs with the beginning of spring and depending on the location either leave after a month (in the northern Aegean Sea) or so or stay till the end of summer/early fall or are present year-round (some areas of southeastern Mediterranean). Satellite imagery shows the promise that LEK data will make it possible to understand the abiotic relationship between lagoons and elasmobranchs. Additionally, a presentation was given to a group of international volunteers at EKAD's Nature Monitoring Center in Manavgat, Antalya, and a presentation was given at international science symposium Sofia, Bulgaria. Last, an expert meeting on elasmobranch was held in the beginning of December 2023, as a first for Türkiye.



