

The Shark Club Mexico 2021



# Children's Workshops to promote knowledge and conservation of sharks and rays

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# Introduction

Mar Sustentable Ciencia y Conservación has been working on marine communication and environmental education in the Mexican Caribbean since 2015.

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As part of this work, the support of the Save Our Seas Foundation allowed us to start a collaboration with Fundación Mundo Azul to develop virtual workshops in Mexico for children interested in the conservation of sharks and marine biodiversity.

The Mundo Azul Foundation has been working since 2020 to develop virtual workshops for children focused on the conservation of sharks. These workshops have reached Guatemala and 13 other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshops have had a reach of 908 people. Through this collaboration with Mar Sustentable, we are interested in promoting knowledge and appreciation for sharks by new generations in the Mexican Caribbean.

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We consider that the actions we are taking with the Mundo Azul Foundation are very favorable due to their experience in environmental education regarding developing virtual workshops for children.

The workshops in the Mexican Caribbean are part of research activities being carried out by Mar Sustentable in Isla Holbox, Cozumel, and Isla Mujeres, where the history of fishing and the change in diversity and availability of fishing resources are being studied. Our research in the region has been supported by The Rufford Foundation

Overtime. We believe that these workshops will help us disseminate knowledge about sharks in the Mexican Caribbean in the population of Quintana Roo. We are deeply grateful to the Save Our Seas Foundation and the Rufford Foundation for their support in this environmental education work in the Mexican Caribbean.

# About the Workshops

**General Objective of the Workshops:** Promote the conservation of our marine resources and sharks in the Mexican Caribbean through virtual and dynamic workshops guided by Mar Sustentable and Fundación Mundo Azul.

**Group Objective:** Create the Mexico's Shark Club

## TEAM:



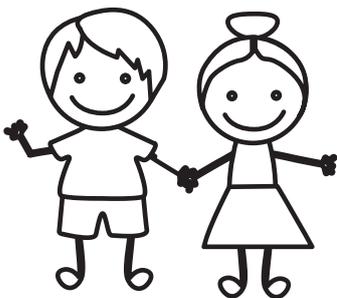
### Mar Sustentable Ciencia y Conservación

Dra. Nadia Rubio  
Pasante de Biología Ximena Díaz Rivera  
Pasante de Biología Libertad Cruz  
Dr. José I. González Rojas



### Foundation Mundo Azul (FUNMZ):

**In charge of the virtual workshops:** Biol. Carlos Eduardo Pérez.



### Guest speakers; Children Leaders of the Shark Club in Guatemala:

Diego Pérez Aldana (Profe Megalodon)  
Martina Martínez (Martina del Mar)  
Santiago Rocha (Profe Santi).

# Participants

Three face-to-face sessions happened at the "Art Power" School of Art based in Cozumel, Quintana Roo. This is an art CENTER in Cozumel Island.

Free activities are held here to involve children to DEVELOP THEIR CREATIVITY. Its founder, Anita Yeh Norrie, aims to promote children's CREATIVITY in populations of children who have economic limitations to access art-related activities: .

- September 6th: 13 participants
- September 13th: 12 participants
- September 20th: 13 participants

Different girls and boys attended each session. However, six children (3 girls and 3 boys) participated in the three consecutive sessions.

During the launch of the workshops on social networks, 21 children from different country states and some foreigners registered. Six virtual sessions happened through the Zoom platform.

In the first session, we had 15 participants; from the second session until the end, 12 children attended (9 boys and three girls). The age range of the participants was five to ten years.

- Boys (online): 9 | Girls (online): 3
- Boys (face to face sessions): 15 | Girls (face to face sessions): 15
- Total (online+ face to face sessions): 42

## Participant sites (registered online).

### México

Quintana Roo: Chetumal, Cozumel, Holbox, Chiquilá  
Veracruz: Poza Rica  
Estado de México  
Ciudad de México  
Nuevo León, Monterrey  
Michoacán  
Querétaro  
Baja California Sur, Cabo San Lucas

### Other countries

Ecuador  
Costa Rica  
Colombia



Figure 1. Online workshop students with their hammerhead shark masks made during the second session "The hammerhead shark in Coco Island".



Figure 2. Screenshot from the last session decorated as a congratulatory gift for the students.



Figure 3. Online students with their shark face masks made during the fourth session "Marine pollution by face masks".

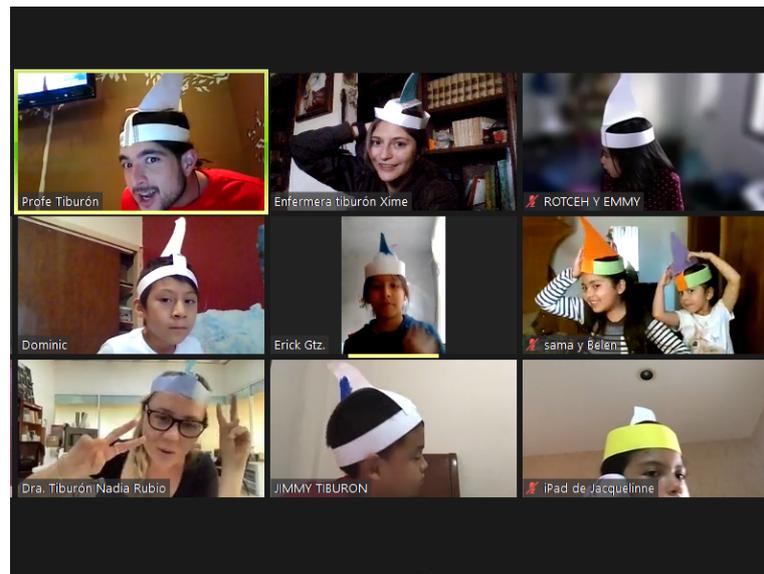


Figure 4. Screenshot taken during the first session "Knowing sharks" with the students of the online workshop.



Figure 5. Screenshot taken during the fifth session "Guests from other Club de los tiburones" with the students of the online and face-to-face workshop.

# COMMENTS

## Parents' comments from the online classes:

### **September 27, 2021. Rotceh's father.**

Thank you very much for the diploma of my little Rotceh, it is excellent, we loved it !!!!

### **September 27, 2021. Jefte's mother.**

Thank you very much. I enjoy the sections; he is a timid child. However, I saw him very lively and participative when he was in the sessions !!! Thank you, and we hope there will be another course like this in the future !!!

### **September 27, 2021. Dylan's mother**

Thank you very much for the workshops. We could not be in all the sessions due to schoolwork and work, but they taught the little ones was very beautiful and successful. All the class dynamics, the activities, the music, and preparing each of the topics so that the children understood it was excellent. It is always very gratifying to participate in activities like this and more if it leaves us a message that we can transmit to others to have a better world. I am also a biologist, and I know how important it is to share these issues with children. And it is also exciting to see that they are passionate about it and can be a link and teaching for other children their age. From colleague to colleague (s), many congratulations and thank you very much for everything. Hopefully, there will be more activities like this and with more themes of our immense sea.

### **September 27, 2021. Ian's mother**

Thank you so much for everything.

### **September 27, 2021. Ale**

Thank you very much for all the information you gave and for transmitting that passion for marine animals

# Workshops

## Workshop 1: Knowing sharks, August 23, 2021

**Objective:** Introduce children to the different species of sharks and rays that inhabit the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Caribbean. Some aspects of their biology were revealed, such as their eating habits, behavior, threats, and category within the Red List of Endangered Species.

**Presentation Content:** The presentation showed six species of sharks and two rays with ecological importance in the Yucatan Peninsula. This presentation was interactive as the children read some of the slides and commented on curious facts that they knew about some species.

**Children's act :** Make a crown-shaped like a shark's dorsal fin. The instructions were part of the presentation, and the teachers' team were aware of any doubts or comments on how to do the craft.

**Material requested for the Activity:**

- \* Cardstock paper and color sheets
- \*Glue
- \*Pair of scissors
- \* Markers or paints



Figure 6. One of the students of the online workshops with his shark-fin crown from the side.



Figure 7. One of the students of the online workshops with his shark-fin crown front view.

# Workshops

## Workshop 2: The Hammerhead Shark. August 30, 2021.



Figure 8. Students of the online workshops with their Hammerhead shark's mask.

**Objective:** Show hammerhead shark monitoring on Isla del Coco, Costa Rica and mention the presence of hammerhead sharks in the Yucatan Peninsula.

**Presentation Content:** Underwater videos of the Hammerhead Shark habitat on Isla del Coco were given in this presentation. We simulated with the children that we were submerged in the water. Information was provided to explain why hammerhead sharks are "the doctors of the sea" serving as key species in determining the health of marine ecosystems.

**Children's activity:** Hammerhead shark mask. The Activity was carried out during the online session. The instructions were part of the presentation and the organizing team was aware of any doubts or comments on how to do the craft.

**Material requested for the Activity:**

- \* Large cardstock
- \* Pair of scissors
- \* Black, white or colored paints
- \* Elastic cord
- \* Rule

# Workshops

## Workshop 3: Looking for Sawfishes. September 06, 2021 .

**Objective:** Understand the sawfishes' importance and the causes of its alarming category "in critical danger of extinction".

**Presentation Content:** As an introduction, we talked about coral reefs and mangroves, exposing the kids to the ecosystem services they provide. The children learned about the marine biodiversity in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. A virtual search mission to find sawfishes through videos occurred during the class by watching drones videos of sawfishes from real monitoring.

**Children's activity:** Plasticine Sawfish. The instructions were part of the presentation, and the organizing team was on the lookout for questions or comments on how to do the craft.

**Material requested for the activity:**

- \* Plasticine of the color you like
- \* Wooden chopsticks
- \* White glue

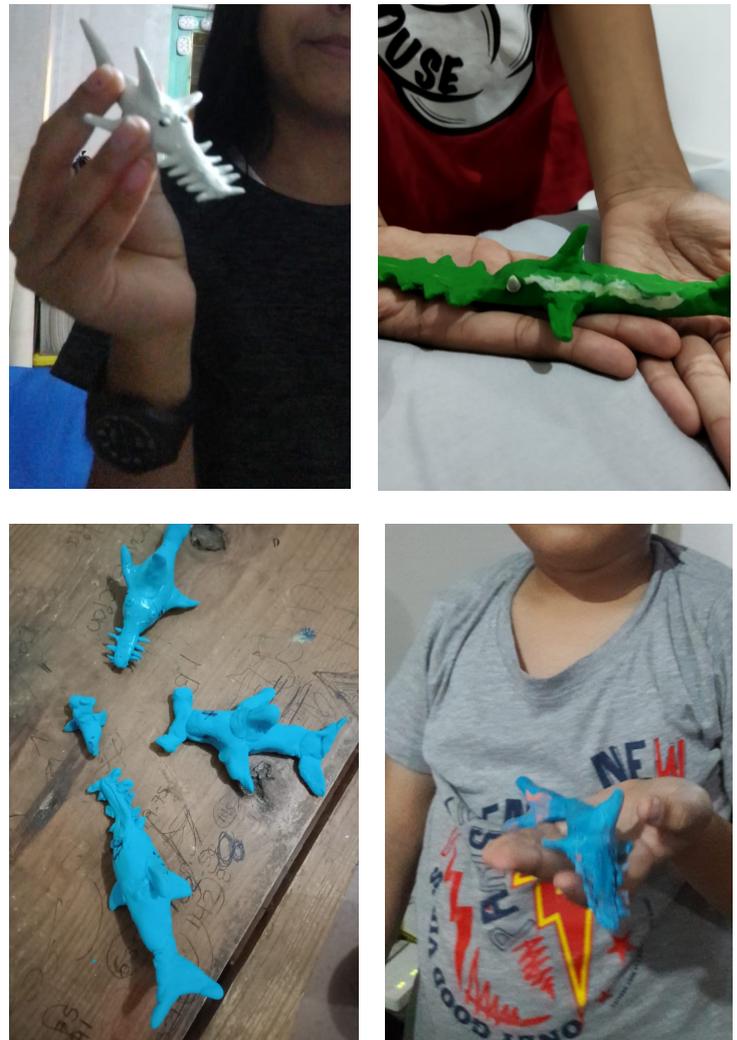


Figure 9. Students of the online workshops with their plasticine Sawfishes.

# Workshops

## Workshop 4: Marine Pollution by Masks. September 13, 2021.



Figure 10. Students of the face-to-face and online workshops with their shark masks.

**Objective:** To inform a new type of ocean pollution derived from the COVID-19 pandemic: masks. Teach that disposable masks are part of the garbage that reaches the seas, seriously affecting marine ecosystems.

**Presentation Content:** This virtual presentation included data on the amounts of masks that have reached the ocean, characteristics such as that they are not biodegradable, and that they affect the trophic chains of the seas.

**Children's activity :** Create a shark mask. The instructions were part of the presentation and the organizing team was on the lookout for questions or comments on how to do the craft.

**Material requested for the activity:**

- \* White cloth mouth mask
- \*Brushes
- \* Black down
- \* Water-based paint pink, black and white colors

# Workshops

## Workshop 5: Guests from Latinamerica which are part of the Club de los tiburones. September 20, 2021.

**Objective:** Present to the children of the Club de los tiburones Mexico, outreach projects promoted by students of the Club de Los Tiburones from other countries and motivate the children of the Club in Mexico to be disseminators for the conservation of chondrichthyans.

**Presentation Content:** There was the participation of 5 students of the Shark Club, where each one briefly explained what their project was about and how it contributed to the conservation of sharks.

**Guests:** Diego Pérez Aldana (Professor Megalodon),  
Martina Martínez (Martina del Mar)  
Santiago Rocha (Profe Santi)

**Children's Activity:** Poem about sharks. The activity was carried out during the online session, the instructions were part of the presentation, and the organizing team was on the lookout for questions or comments on how to do the craft.

### Material requested for the activity:

- \* Colored sheets
- \* Colored pencils or markers

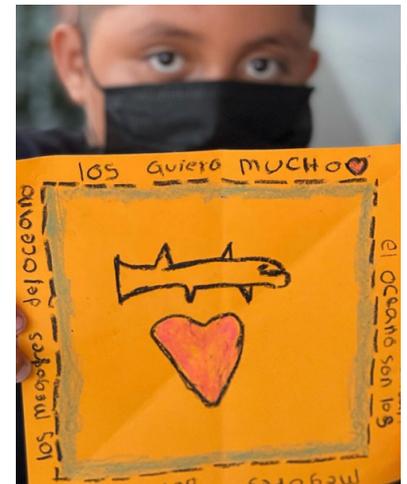
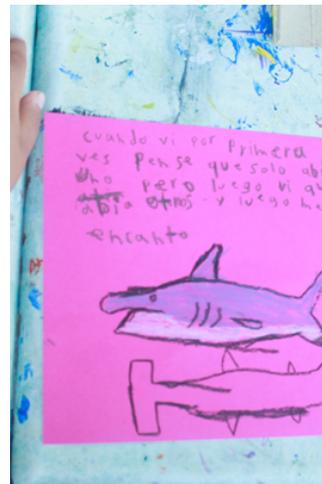
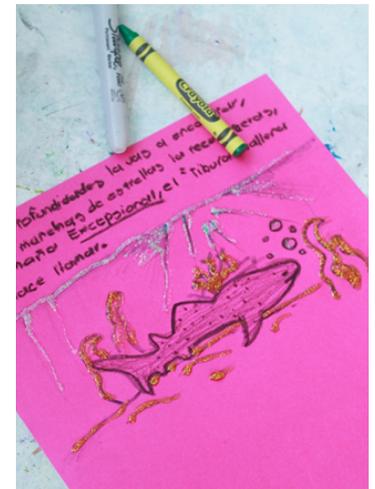
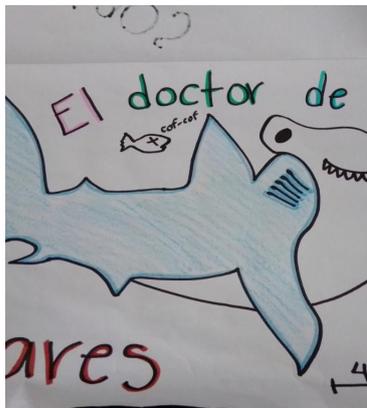
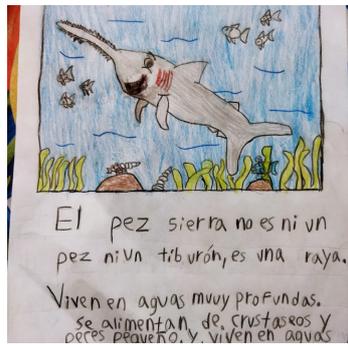


Figure 11. Students of the face-to-face workshop with their poems.

# Workshops

## Workshop 6: Final session. Outreach exercise for children. September 27, 2021.



**Objective:** To carry out a scientific dissemination exercise where the children of the Club in Mexico presented us with a topic seen in the workshops with the help of a thematic drawing and a poem.

**Presentation Content:** The virtual presentation for this session included examples of what each team member does every day to help sharks and concluded with a message of motivation and gratitude to the Club's students for their participation. After the presentation, the students' presentations began.

**Children's Activity:** Prepare a short exhibition with a drawing and a poem on some of the topics seen in the workshops.

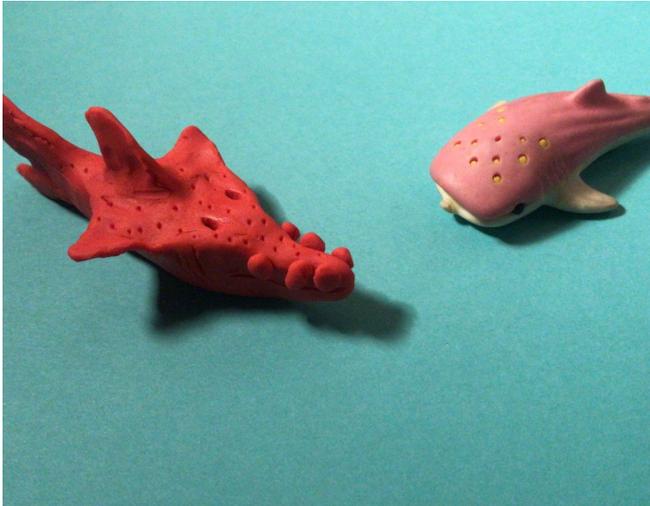
**Material requested for the activity:**

- \* White or colored sheets
- \* Colored pencils, markers or paints

Figure 12. Drawings from the last session which the students from the online workshops used for their exercise.

# Conclusion

Our workshop's activities were successful and the next step is to continue with the workshop activities on Holbox Island and continue inviting kids from other states of Mexico and different countries of Latin America.



Save Our Seas Foundation and The Rufford foundation supported our Work on Isla Holbox and Cozumel

## Special thanks to:

- Anita Yeh, Casa de La Creatividad, Art Center in Isla Cozumel



Thanks to other team members from Mar Sustentable on Cozumel

Andrés Romero  
Rodrigo Nuñez  
Luis Pech

# Participation certificate example



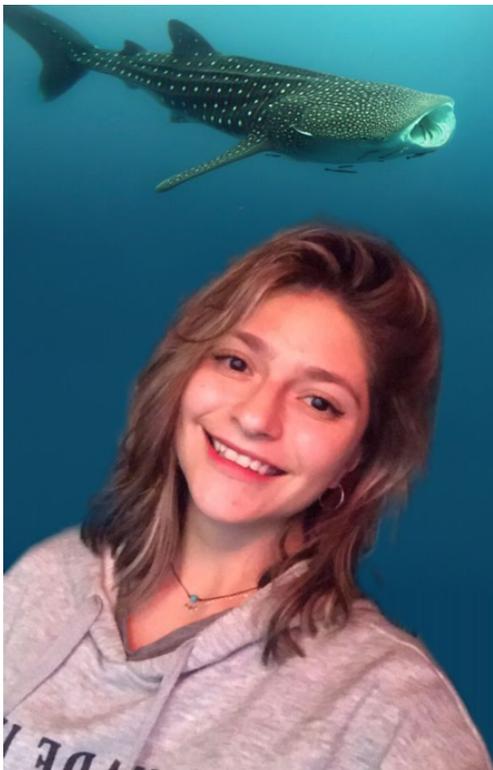
# The Team



Dr. Nadia Rubio



Carlos Pérez Murcia



Ximena Díaz Rivera, Collaborator



Izaizel Cruz, Collaborator

