

Project Update: January 2014

December

On 15th December 2013, ASUPMATOMA closed the two field stations, concluding a successful marine turtle nest monitoring season. The season ended with 534 protected nests at San Cristobal and 1350 protected nests at El Suspiro. We ended the year with a number of different expositions and environmental education events to highlight the season and take the opportunity for outreach.

Photo A. Parents joined students as we completed the last beach profiles. Rather than using the Abney level, students showed their parents how to measure the beach in 10 m segments, then use the data to graph the results comparing the previous beach width measurements from earlier in the season.



Photo B. ProFaunaBaja and ASUPMATOMA were invited to an academic exposition about marine conservation with the University of Baja California Sur (UABCS). Students from UABCS spend 2 months conducting studies for their thesis projects at the field stations.



Photo C. At the end of the season festival at the San Cristobal field station, students from the UABCS were invited to present their thesis projects in the form of a poster presentation.



In 2014, we began the "adopt a nest program" which allowed families and individuals to adopt a nest for \$50. In return they received a certificate with their name, the coordinates of the nest, and the number of hatchlings that were successfully released. At Christmas we sent out the certificates to the family.

Attached photos shows one family with ASUPMATOMA field biologists who adopted a nest after attending an afternoon hatchling release at the public beach, El Suspiro. The other photo shows a nest stake with the last name of another family who attended an overnight patrol with ProFaunaBaja at the ASUPMATOMA field station of San Cristobal.

