

## **Project Update: July 2014**

During my most recent trip to Costa Rica (April 2014), I collected c. 300 more tissue samples from markets around San Jose. I now have over 600 samples from markets and c. 300 samples from artisanal fisheries for genetic barcoding. Preliminary barcoding results show that at least five species of shark are being sold in these markets, with *Carcharhinus falciformis* representing nearly 90% of samples tested. Two species of hammerhead shark, included the endangered scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, were identified in the market samples. Within the artisanal fisheries, I have identified four species being caught with *S. lewini* accounting for over 83% of samples tested to date. No sharks collected from these fisheries were over 84cm in total length (TL) meaning they are all immature. To date c. 35 social surveys have been collected from artisanal fishermen and are being used to understand the factors impacting support for shark conservation in these communities.