

Project Update: March 2014

Between June 2013 and March 2014 I have collected approximately 300 tissue samples from markets around San Jose, Costa Rica with 15 different Pescadarias (fish stands) currently represented. I have also begun analysing the market samples for species identification using DNA barcoding methods. Approximately 200 sharks have also been sampled from artisanal fisheries in Ojochal, Coyote, and Bejuco, and await delivery to my lab. Based on observer data at least five different species of shark (*Mustelus lunulatus*, *Rhizoprionodon longurio*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, *Alopias pelagicus*) are represented within these samples, but accurate ID through genetic analyses is still needed. Estimated total length for sharks being caught in these fisheries range from 10 to 84 cm. This suggests that most sharks being caught are neonates or juveniles. I have also completed a pilot study to test the effectiveness of the social survey with greater distribution to the fishing communities is underway.