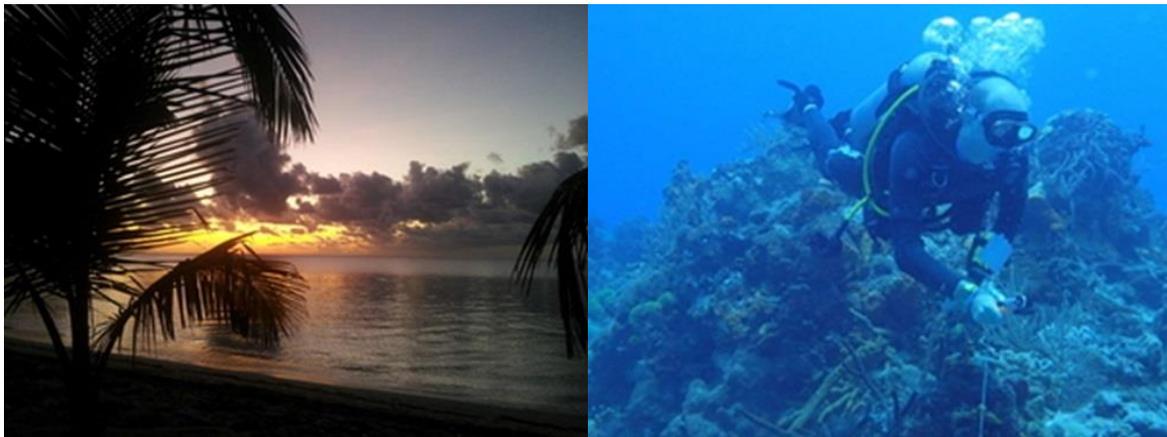


## Project Update: November 2016

It has been a long and successful summer here in Mexico. I am pleased to report that we have surveyed 49 coral reef sites spanning seven Marine Protected Areas and adjacent areas. This involved several field expeditions ranging from comfortable diving on fully equipped 250 hp boats on the island of Cozumel to hammocks and running a dive tank compressor on the beach in Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve! I am currently working my way through 25 hours of video, converting the coral reef video-transects to photos and then identifying cover components (coral, sponges, fleshy algae etc.) for each photo. A lot of analysis still remains but one clear tendency is for substantial variation in coral reef condition between sites and locations. Hopefully we will be able to tease apart the drivers of this to understand the impact of marine protection on corals.



Left: Sunrise in Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. Right: Video-transects in Cozumel, Mexico.