

## Project Update: April 2017

You will have seen in Caty's previous message that we have had a delay in receiving our research permit in Mozambique this year. The delay has not been related to any concerns about our work. Rather, we were informed that we had to change our Mozambican non-profit registration to become a "research institute" to fit national guidelines. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic process to accomplish this has proven to be time-consuming. This has consequently stalled a key component of our project: conducting detailed surveys with coastal fishermen in Inhambane province to estimate the number of whale sharks being caught in gillnets.

Secondly, further to Caty's previous message, I have attached three recent images to illustrate some of our team's activities in the field to accompany the progress updates.



Shark caught by local Tofo fisherman. Sharks are still caught opportunistically by local fishermen off Tofo Beach. While this is unfortunate in an area that is also popular with marine tourists, it is a consequence of fishermen seeking income in the face of dwindling fish stocks. A positive step is that the fishermen are happy to work with our research team who collect tissue and vertebral samples for use in catch surveys and biological studies.



Our Conservation officer, Herculano, interviews a local Tofo fishermen to trial questions for roll-out in our broader fishing community surveys. Following tests with boat paper-based and mobile phone reporting systems, we have determined that mobile platforms are suitable for such work, minimising transcription time and the potential for error.