

Project Update: November 2016

We have now completed our marine megafauna monitoring at our second location on the Caribbean coast of Panama, the Bocas del Toro archipelago. Our field team swam underwater visual censuses (swimming over 60 km combined!) and set Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) at many sites throughout the islands. The work was completed with the assistance of two university students from the International Maritime University of Panama (UMIP) and local artisanal fishers. Preliminary results show higher abundance and diversity at this site compared to our first field site.

This fieldwork is the first of its kind on the Caribbean coast of Panama and establishes an important base line for marine megafauna populations in Panama. We are currently assessing and analysing our data in order to share with the public and with government officials so that it may aid in management and conservation strategies for the region.



Project coordinator Megan Chevis discussing fish identification with Bocas captain and traditional fisher, Carlos, after swimming a transect.



A beautiful Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*) captured on one of our Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) in Bocas del Toro, Panama.