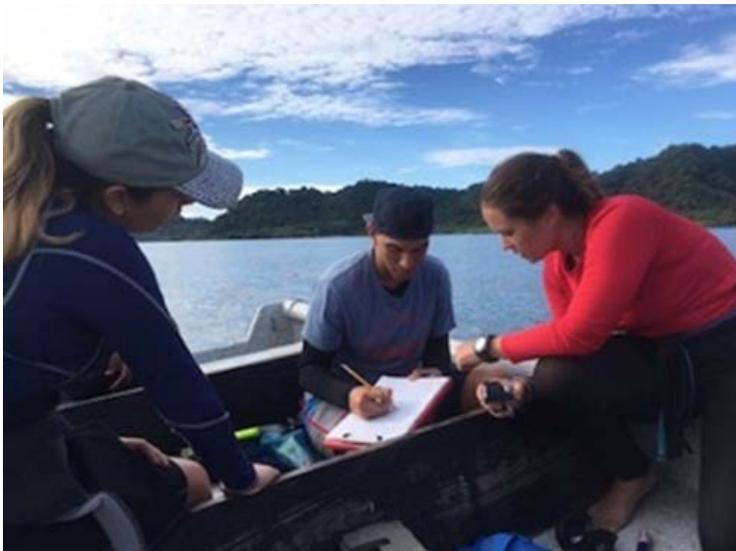


Project Update: September 2016

Our assessment of marine megafauna on the Caribbean coast of Panama is now underway as we finish our first set of monitoring in the Costa Arriba region of the Colón province. During our week of fieldwork we were able to set 36 Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) at sites within and outside of the marine protected area, Portobelo National Park. This fisheries-independent method of monitoring enables us to assess differences in the presence, diversity, and abundance of the sharks, rays, marine turtles, and piscivorous fish of this area. Our work in Colón was completed with the help of two final year students from the International Maritime University of Panama (UMIP) as well as local artisanal fishers, who were trained in monitoring methods and were able to gain a greater understanding of the marine megafauna of this region of Panama.



Panama coordinator, Megan Chevis, training students from the International Maritime University of Panama in data collection for Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) in Colón, Panama.

Local artisanal fishers, Ariel and Tomás, preparing bait and the bait cages before deploying the BRUVs.

