Project Update: May 2017

With support from local observers, data collection continues three times per week at each of the project's three coastal communities. We have completed 7 months of systematic information gathering on catch composition, fishing effort, length of species caught and price variations. Excluding February, I have made monthly visits to each coastal community. In early February 2017 I travelled to Bremen (Germany) to attend the workshop "Tropical Fisheries in a Changing World" organised by the Resource Management group at the Centre for Tropical Marine Research (http://www.zmt-bremen.de/en/Fisheries_Workshop.html), where I presented preliminary results of the project. I stayed in Bremen for the rest of the month for technical discussions with my project supervisors and to design the preliminary statistical analysis. Finally, on April 3rd and 4th I attended the 2017 Rufford meeting in Bogotá (Colombia), http://www.asoprimatologicacolombiana.org/ruffordcolombia.html), where I presented an overview of my research project and some preliminary results.

On April 27th 2017, during my last field trip to Pital on the Pacific coast, I fell approximately 3 m from a faulty wooden bridge and broke the fibula in my left leg. I was taken to a clinic in Buenaventura where my leg was X-rayed and put in plaster. Although the fracture is relatively small, and luckily did not involve any bone displacement, it is located near my ankle, which makes the healing process more complex. I must walk with crutches to help the recovery process and the orthopaedist estimates a four-week immobilization period followed by physiotherapy.

Inevitably this will have ramifications for the project but I propose the following arrangements. The data in the field will continue to be collected by the local observers while

I am unable to visit the communities. Meanwhile, I will aim to finish all data entry, write reports and undertake some preliminary data analysis.

Provided that the data collection proceeds satisfactorily in my absence, I hope that there will be no negative implications for the project.