

## Project Update: February 2018

Though November and December 2017 in Bocas can mean strong winds and low visibility waters, we were lucky this year and had several weeks of beautifully calm waters during our monitoring. These surprising conditions allowed us to reach outer reef sites that are difficult to work in when there are large swells. This year we completed more than double the number of snorkeling transects that we were able to complete last year- swimming over 110 km in total! While most of our large wildlife sightings last year were rays, this year we documented many more nurse sharks and three species of marine turtles (hawksbill, green, and loggerhead). Though these differences in the number of sightings do not necessarily reflect changes in the populations in Bocas, it does provide further insight into their distribution and habitat use. Long-term data collected over several years will ultimately allow us to assess changes in these populations.



