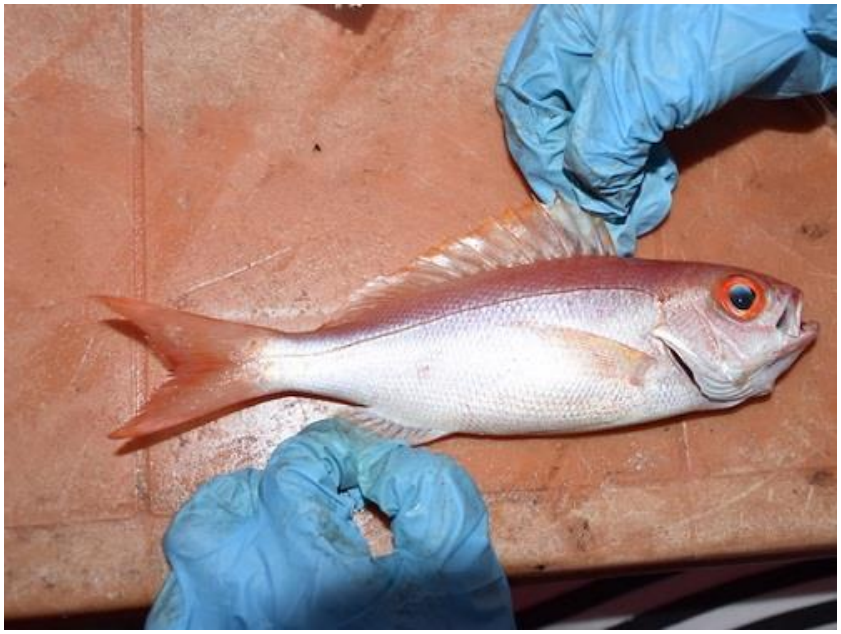
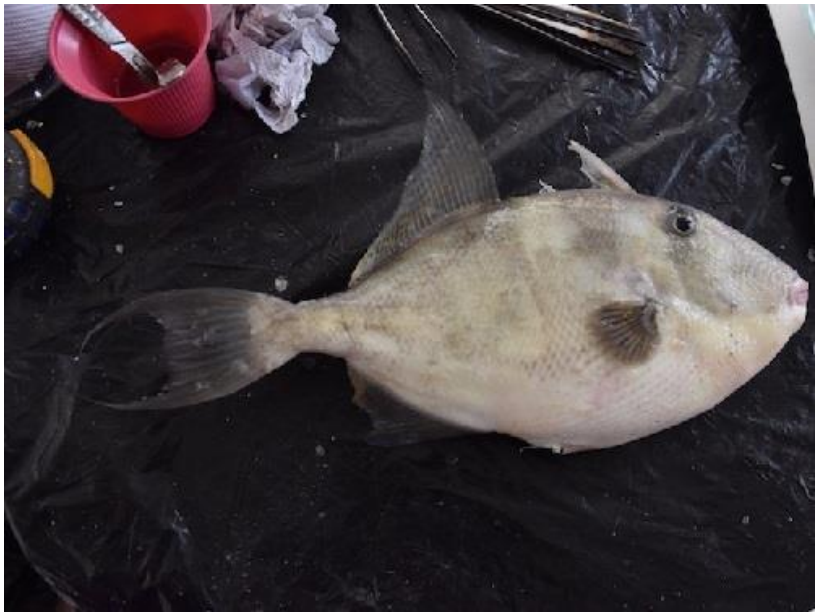
Project Update: November 2018

We conducted ecotoxicological analysis of skin samples from wild dolphin species and seven coastal fish species collected in La Guajira, including snappers, beltfish, triggerfish, among others. Fish were chosen because local fishermen have reported them as potential prey for dolphins, and also because they are consumed by local community. Toxicological findings indicated that both dolphins and fish are bio-accumulating mercury in their tissues. Fish showed lower mercury concentrations, but this element is biomagnifying in the food chain, so dolphins as top predators showed highest concentrations. Preliminary risk assessment indicates a potential health risk on dolphins in the long term by fish consumption. It is urgent to conduct more contaminant analyses and collect more fish species in La Guajira to assess accurately the impact of mercury exposition not only in dolphins, but mainly in local people, since they are feeding same preys than dolphins in this Colombian region.



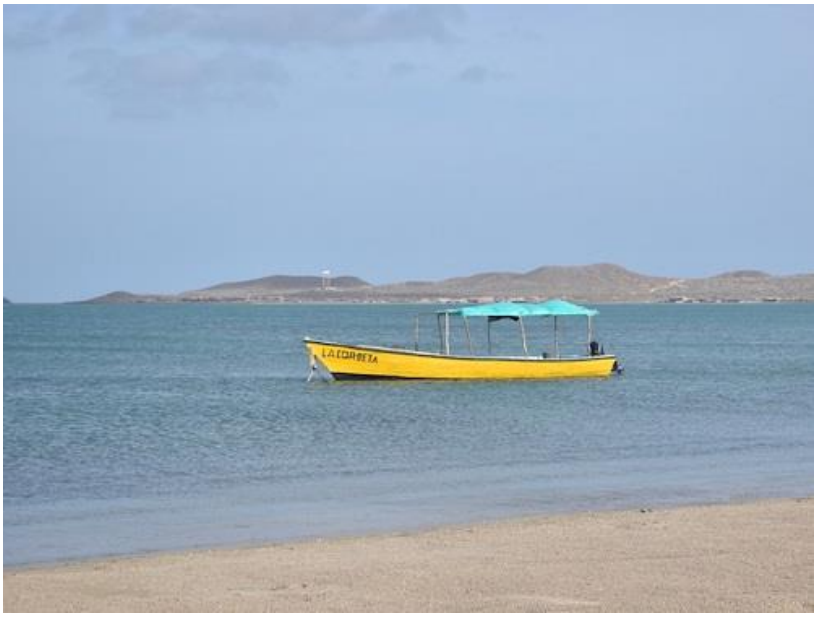
Snapper

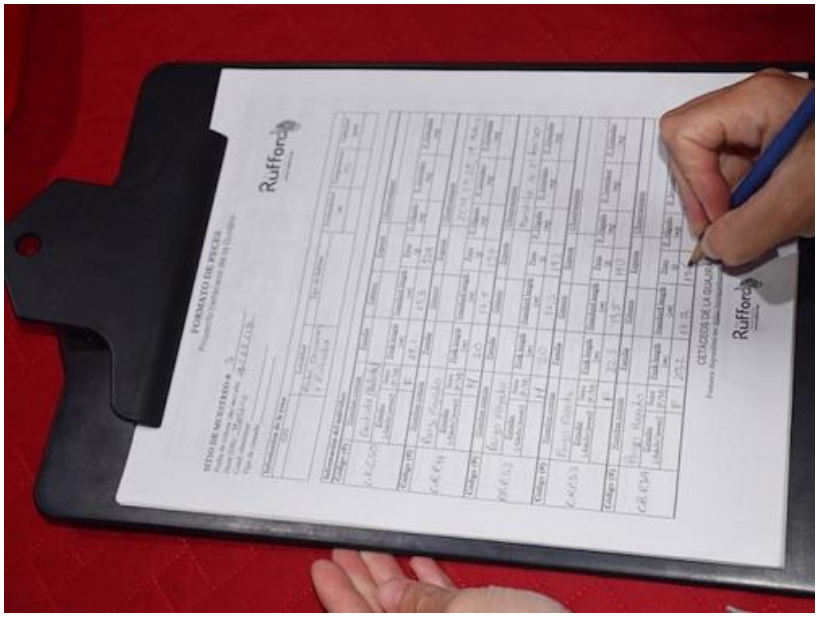
Mojarra



Triggerfish

Our fishing boat





Fish format