

Project Update: April 2019

We recently began our project activities in the Bocas del Toro province with several education and outreach events held in communities on three islands in the archipelago. Thanks to support from local partners and the Panama Ministry of Environment, we were able to expand our education program Niños del Mar and talked to over 200 primary and secondary school students. During these interactive presentations we talk to students about the diversity, behavior, and biology of sharks and rays, their importance to healthy marine ecosystems and wildlife tourism, threats to their populations and actions they can take to help, and the science we do to better understand them.

We also held several community meetings that were attended by over 75 government representatives, artisanal fishers, students, teachers, divers, tour guides, and other NGOs where we presented our ongoing work on marine megafauna in Bocas, key results and their implications, and recommendations for fisheries and tourism in the region.



Project leader, Megan Chevis, talking to 4th graders in Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro about sharks and rays, their biology, and conservation.



Fourth graders from Escuela Republica de Nicaragua in Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro after learning about sharks and rays.