

Project Update: December 2022

On December 8th 2022 part of the team visited Campamento Tortuguero Chalacatepec (Fig. 1), a turtle conservation camp, coordinated by the Mexican natural protected areas commission (CONAMP), this visit was a follow up to the juvenile hawksbill turtle captured in our study site in November 2022 and previously tagged in their facilities in October 2022 (see November updates). We interviewed the fisherman who captured said turtle and asked some questions related to the event, as well as about areas where we could do some exploratory dives in the future. Therefore, creating a new link for future collaboration, and opening an opportunity for new studies in the region.



Figure 1. The team, sharing experiences and planning future collaborations with Daniel Hernandez, Chalacatepec turtle camp coordinator.

Additionally, we participated as Judges for a sea turtle costume contest held at Campamento Chalacatepec, where local kids and their parents elaborated the costume from re-used materials (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Children participating in the sea turtle costume contest, showing their costume to the judges.

The next day, we visited Punta Pérula, located about 80 km south of our study site; there we visited the islands inside the bay and did some exploratory dives (Fig. 3). Thanks to the site knowledge of our captain and previous collaborator, Cande, we were able to capture a juvenile hawksbill turtle (Fig. 4). The turtle was posteriorly cleaned, measured, tagged and released with locals.



Figure 3. Israel Llamas capturing a juvenile hawksbill sea turtle during exploratory dives at Punta Perula islands.



Figure 4. Local children were interested in our work during the measuring and tagging process.



