

Project Update January 2026

Rufford I.D.: 46781-1

Project Title: Shark and Ray Identity in Southern Gulf and Mexican Caribbean Cuisine

Update:

1. **Fieldwork** has been progressing very well. Through the planned interviews, we have successfully identified the sites where all monthly sampling are being conducted.
2. After several months of sampling in both Campeche and Quintana Roo, we are doing the standardization of laboratory processing. Several samples processed well using the standard protocol, while for others we successfully applied a mini-barcoding method (a standardized approach for degraded tissue). We are still working to obtain sequences from the remaining tissue samples collected so far.
3. The preliminary results are very interesting. Through genetic analyses and visual census data, we are recovering information that is poorly documented in Mexico regarding the shark and ray market. For example, we are identifying the composition and distribution of *cazón* in southern Quintana Roo, as well as the market abundance of an endangered species in Campeche.