

Project Update: November 2011

By December 2012 I completed the collection of samples from Costa Rica and partially from Peru. I conducted field work in Peru during May and June 2011 and travelled to Costa Rica in September.

In Costa Rica, I spent 15 days moving between the ports of Puntarenas and Quepos. In both ports, and in collaboration with fisheries biologist from Incopesca, I made daily visits to several piers to observe the landing dynamics of the local shark fishery. There, I was allowed to observe all the landing process, collect samples and measurements. In total, I collected 217 samples corresponding to individuals from eight fishing vessels. Most of the samples were from silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) as they encompass most of the individuals landed by the Costa Rican fishing vessels. I also collected samples from blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) but landings from mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) were rare. The absence of landings for this species is interesting since in Peru, landings for makos are very common.



Left: Taking measurements and collecting samples from juvenile silky sharks. Right: Starting the landing process of a shark fishing vessel.