



During the start of the grant period we created a new logo for the network this logo will give identity to the project, and will be used in official documents, presentations, outreach material, uniforms and merch, as well as in official vehicles (Fig 1).



Figure 1 – Projects official vehicle with network's logo

In early November, we participated in an in-water monitoring in the Arcos de Mismaloya, a very touristic snorkeling site inside the Banderas Bay in Jalisco along with other network members from GICOFF A.C. and Campamento Tortuguero Mayto, during this field trip we captured, tagged and obtained samples from 6 hawksbill juvenile and adult hawksbill turtles. Thanks to this captures, we were able to untangle fishing line from the flipper of an adult male (Fig. 2), who had been reported with the fishing line tangled for over a year. This monitoring definitely helped strengthen the relation of the network members, and will be the first of many to come.



Figure 2.- Project Director Farid Zavala capturing adult hawksbill male with fishing line tangled in flipper



We also participated in the conference “From science to action: Communities and scientist protecting the coast”, led by Dr. Martin Thiel from the Smithsonian Institute, this event was organized by Careyes Foundation, a very renowned organization in the region, here, we had the opportunity to meet other local organizations and stakeholders that work towards environmental conservation, and that could potentially become future partners and collaborators (Fig. 3).



Figure 3 – Conference participants from different environmental conservation organizations in the region.

Mid November, we met with the fishers from two communities, Punta Pérula and Careyes, we had the participation of 11 and 10 fishermen, respectively (Fig 4-5). During the meeting we talked about turtle biology, differences between species and identification methods, as well as projects history and recommendations for good monitoring practices, to avoid wrongful turtle handling techniques and reduce stress, as well as guaranteeing the wellbeing of both turtles and fishers. We answered doubts and questions fishers had, and talked about permits as well as future opportunities that the project could bring.



Figure 4-5. – Fishermen/Divers from Punta Pérula an Careyes who attended the meeting for information and training on turtle capture techniques.



During early December, we were invited to participate in a series of talks and workshops given to a group of 15 students from the Autonomous University of Occident (UADO) (Fig 6), from the city of Los Mochis, Sinaloa. Here we talked about the background and current work with hawksbill turtles and communities, as well as inviting them to participate during their social service or residence.



Figure 6.- Hawksbill Network director Farid Zavala, talking to UADO students about work currently done in Jalisco and Nayarit

During mid-January, we met again with fishermen/divers who signed up to the program for follow up on training, this time we had a recently caught turtle, which we measured, weighted and tagged with their participation (Fig. 7), blood and tissue samples were taken by the team biologists, however we explained the reason and importance of this process.



Figure 7.- Community member José Gómez, flipper tagging a hawksbill turtle with the supervision of director Farid Zavala



We also handed out official uniforms, during this meeting (Fig. 8-9), we had the assistance of 5 more fishermen who were added to the team.



Figure 8-9.- Perula and Careyes teams with their official project uniform

During late January we were invited to the 26th Annual Grupo Tortuguero de Las Californias Reunion, an important organization who gathers fisherman, investigators, biologist, volunteers and community members from all of the Mexican Pacific, whom share the same goal, turtle conservation. We presented the work we have been doing with this new project as The Carey Network of Jalisco and Nayarit (Red Carey Jalisco-Nayarit) and participated in workshops related to health and conservation in sea turtle feeding areas (Fig. 10).



Figure 10.- Assistants to the 26th Annual Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias Reunion in Mazatlán Sinaloa.



We were fortunate enough to be awarded the Don Manuel Orantes award, along-side with our colleagues from GICOFF A.C., and Campamento Tortuguero Mayto/Eco Mayto A.C., of we have been part of in previous years. This award recognizes conservation efforts done alongside communities, were lucky enough to be given the prize this year, thanks to our more than 10 years of continuous work in the states of Jalisco and Nayarit (Fig 11).



Figure 11.- Red Carey Jalisco-Nayarit, GICOFF A.C., and Campamento Tortuguero Mayto/Eco Mayto A.C. team members receiving the Don Manuel Orantes Award for their more than 10 years' community-based conservation efforts in the coasts of Jalisco and Nayarit.

Since the start of this project, the team has carried out several local dissemination activities, constantly setting up an information stand every week in the town's community center and town square and participating in regional activities such as the fishermen's day expo, where we were invited by the county authorities, where we created links with the La Huerta mayor for future collaborations (Fig 12-13).



Figure 12-13.- Projects information and fundraising stand during the Fishermen's day expo, where we met with La Huerta Mayor, Dr. Luis Arías and Punta Pérula's Delegate, Justo Michel.



Finally, we have also carried out public turtle releases with the attendance of over 300 people, locals, national and international tourists from all ages (Fig 14-15).



Figure 14-15.- Public turtle releases carried out in Punta Pérula Beach with the attendance of locals, national and international tourists.

To date project fishermen/divers have reported a total of 19 live hawksbill turtles (Figure 16-19) and 1 dead one, as well as two juvenile green turtles that were mistaken for hawksbill turtles due to the resemblance of their shell. We are in constant communication with the team members and in constant training, joining them during their commercial fishing activities and correcting bad handling practices. If the capture rate keeps steady as it is, we are confident that by the end of the study period we will have over 100 reports of hawksbills turtles.



Figure 16-19.- Divers Emmanuel García, Valente Aguilar, Marco Juárez and Marcelino Aguilar with hawksbill turtles captured during commercial dives for oyster, octopus or lobster.