

Project Update: April 2015

March and April 2015 were busy months with multiple workshops. My team and I held workshops at a primary school in a small Mexican village that has sea turtle nesting and coral reefs and challenges with poaching eggs and juveniles as well as incidental capture in fishing nets. This area also has a high usage of ATVs on the beach. We presented to a group of 90 school children in one Spanish workshop and 40 people, mostly part-time and full time foreigners and some Mexican villagers in an English workshop. After the workshop, the community invited us to paint a mural of sea turtles and hand out a sea turtle fact sheet to help stop ATV driving on the beach in nesting areas and to build a community-based monitoring programme both on the nesting beach and in the water.

We also hosted an English identification workshop for sailboats who frequently find sea turtle carcasses from poachers in hidden spots we would not normally see and who have been helping report new nesting areas for us to focus our work. There Mexican university students accompanied me to the latter workshop and set up table for information and collected comments. This month, I also started a series of workshops with Mexican university students and we began work on a bilingual field guide, posters, and parts of the Model for Conservation Tourism. All of these workshops are pieces of the larger project to make a Model for Conservation Tourism. Receiving feedback from University students, sailboats, fishermen, and school children is helping us shape the contents for the model.



Warehouse of a kite boarding school in a small Mexican coastal village where we have been invited to paint a mural for the protection of sea turtles.



Students from the Universidad de Baja California Sur, Jorge, Anareli, and Alejandra happily display sea turtles for a workshop with members of the tourism community and participate in starting to develop the Model for Conservation Tourism.



A school in a small fishing village where sea turtles face challenges of entanglement and direct poaching, changing the minds of the next generation about sea turtles and other marine life is key to conservation.