

Project Update: August 2016

The research has been going quite slow. The numbers of *Carcharias taurus* is very low at the study site this year. The fluctuations in *C. taurus* numbers can occur from year to year and doesn't necessarily mean a permanent drop in numbers. Unfortunately, this year the numbers are low and I have had to adjust my research accordingly. My supervisors have stressed that large predator research can, at times, be unpredictable and that a researcher may sometimes have to adjust their research because of it.

I am still diving and looking at general shark numbers when I can which will also go towards my research. I have had the privilege of getting in contact with a few shark biologists and presenting to them my research. They have given me some good feedback and have also made some data available to me that will also be evaluating by me and added to my research. With the *C. taurus* numbers being so low this year, any historical data can also add to giving a picture of the recreational diving interactions with *C. taurus*.

Additional to this, I am still handing out questionnaires, which will also allow me to get recreational diving customer knowledge and information. I am thankful, as the research has allowed me to rub shoulders with some of the top shark biologists in the country.