

## Project Update: November 2016

The research season is closing. The ragged-tooth shark season has come to an end as the females move north for their gestation period. There are a few males that are still at the research site but will soon head south for their feeding season. The diving has been challenging but we have reached the number of dives that we were aiming for. The research results, so far, show similar results to the Australian studies. The sharks seem to get agitated when the divers arrive on site. The behaviour of the sharks usually includes preferring the back of the cave in order to create more space between them and the divers as well as moving into the overhangs for protection. The number of sharks is also less after the divers leave the majority of the time, but whether this is significant remains to be seen. As the diving season comes to an end and we collect all needed data for the research, data analysis and write up of the thesis will continue.

I have also been able to present a research poster at a conservation symposium as well as at the UKZN postgraduate day. I will continue giving presentations at different diving operators in order to share the results and conclusion of the research.

