

Project Update: February 2019

Common angelshark, *Squatina squatina* (L.) and smoothback angelshark, *Squatina oculata* Bonaparte, 1840 are two of the most critically endangered sharks species in the Mediterranean Sea, and globally. According to Šoljan (1980) „Marine fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina“(book XLVII, Department for natural and mathematical sciences, book 8, Consulting: Problems of the inventory of animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina – states and perspectives) both species were present in the Neum bay in the middle of last century. Unfortunately, detailed underwater activities, fishery analysis and interviews have not provided any information on the presence of both species in last 50 years. On the other hand, project gathered new, detailed, information about the presence, distribution and nursery grounds of catsharks, smoothhound sharks, stingrays, eagle rays, electric rays and skates which inhabit the waters of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since there was a huge gap in the knowledge of wider public masses when it comes to the diversity of marine animals on state levels, we worked extremely hard on the raising awareness through many events, exhibitions and media campaigns (with hundreds of articles on local/regional television, radio, magazines, newspapers and portals). We are still working towards adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan, with significant progress made in last 5 months. I am still working on the book, which supposed to be finished in not too distant future.



Preparing for the night dive, a search for the angel sharks in the chosen sites within the Neum bay. © Sharklab ADRIA.



One of the meetings organized in order to join forces towards the protection of marine life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia.



Part of the Supralittoral field education for undergraduate and postgraduate students during the summertime. ©Sharklab ADRIA.