

Project Update: June 2018

In the first week of May 2018 we have organised the second field expedition which involved the engagement of two graduate studies from the Department of Biology, with a focus in ecology and conservation. Besides, marine biology expert Adla Kahrić joined our efforts during this field trip and supported the planned activities as an underwater researcher (Photo 1) and data analyst. In the last week of May 2018, we went on a 2-day field trip in order to collect some by-catch elasmobranch species, which has significantly contributed to the knowledge of nursery grounds of electric rays. Further, samples have been fixed in buffered formalin and transported to our laboratories for macroscopic pathological analysis (Photo 3).

I had another extremely successful meeting with the ministry representatives, municipal council and local stakeholders regarding the protection measures for the elasmobranch species, nursery grounds and habitats within the marine part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Program titled: „I am with Nature: Towards new protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina“. During the meeting, I have elaborated my work through both RSG projects and emphasised the importance of the adoption of long-term in-situ conservation, along with proposing the specific protection measures. By the end of June 2018, we have finalised all the pathological studies in the electric ray samples, no disease (changes) was observed in histopathology stained with heamatoxylineosin.



Photo 1: Research divers Andrej Gajić and Adla Kahrić celebrating a successful dive in the coastline of the Neum bay. ©E. Memišević, Sharklab ADRIA.



Photo 2: Andrej on the stakeholders and government meeting group, I am with nature organized by the UNEP in Tarčin Forest Resort, Bosnia and Herzegovina. ©Sharklab ADRIA.

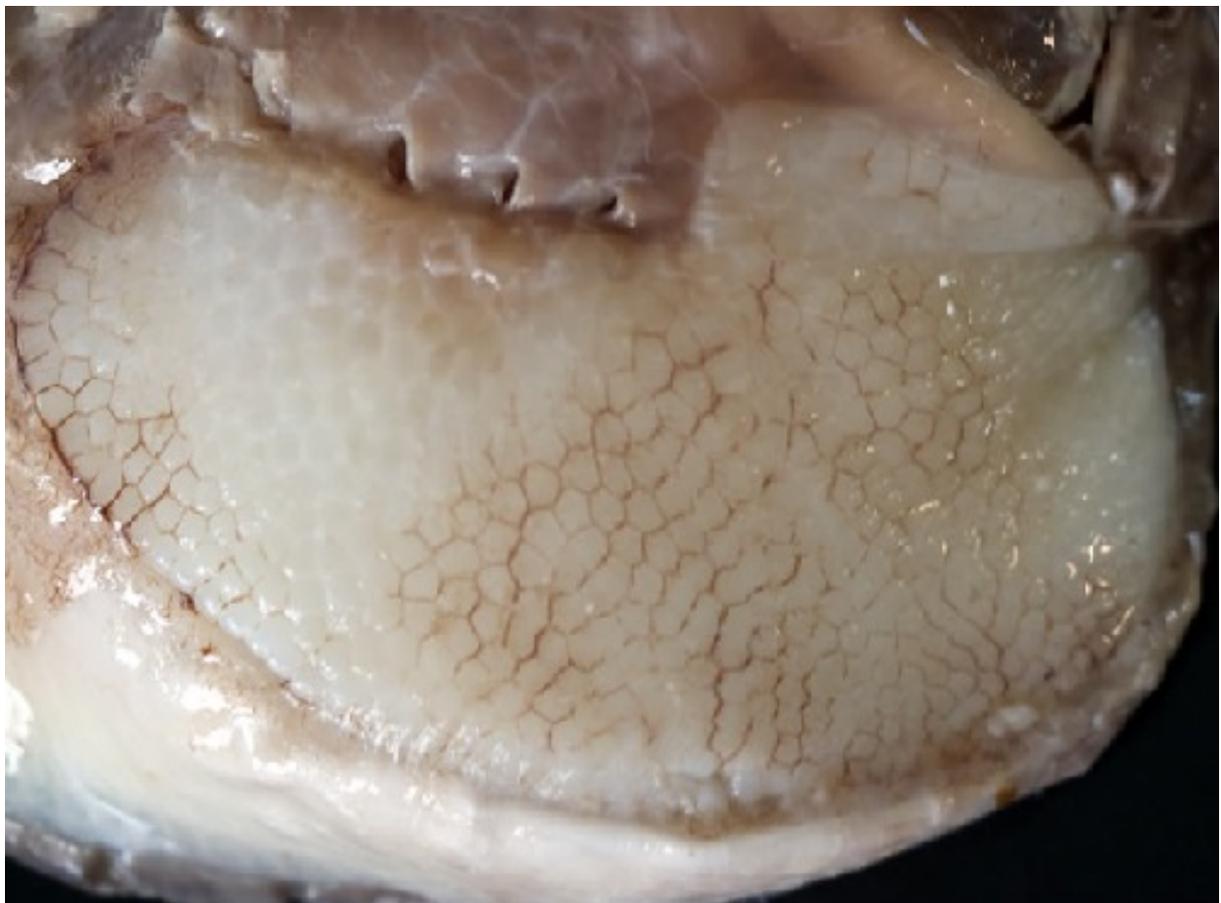


Photo 3: Macroscopic pathomorphology and preparations for histopathological studies on marbled electric ray, *Torpedo marmorata* Risso, 1880 from Neum bay. ©A. Gajić, Sharklab ADRIA.