



OUR WORK SPANS THE GLOBE

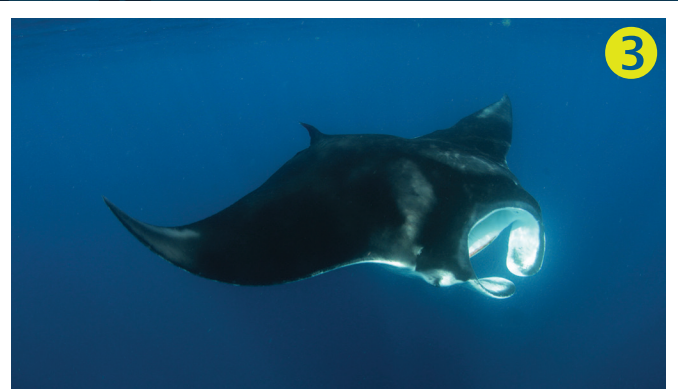
We work in several ocean basins with a focus on the MesoAmerican Reef (MAR). We collaboratively research, monitor and foster conservation of coastal and reef-associated large marine wildlife species including sharks, rays, turtles, and large commercially important finfish.



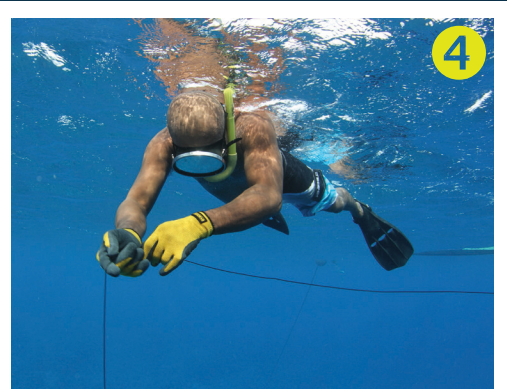
BELIZE
With 21 years of country-based experience working with large fish, turtles, fisheries, and the tourism sector in Belize, MarAlliance's work with large iconic marine wildlife began here. Our multi-pronged approach to big fish conservation integrates fisheries-dependent and independent research, tourism, outreach and education, capacity building, and policy support.



HONDURAS
A moratorium on fishing sharks declared in 2011 has left the country without much data on populations and distributions of sharks and rays (collectively known as elasmobranchs). Working locally with traditional fishers, coastal and indigenous communities, we focus on generating information necessary for management and decision-making through collaborative research and monitoring, capacity building, income diversification, and outreach.



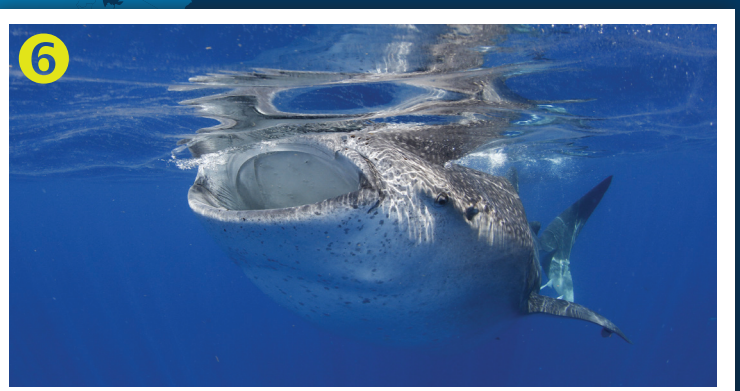
MEXICO
The Caribbean facing state of Quintana Roo possesses over 500 km of the MesoAmerican Reef and hosts key aggregation sites for several megafauna including whale sharks, manta rays and reef sharks. We have established permanent sites where we conduct standardized long-term monitoring of coastal and reef-associated marine megafauna.



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
Sharks' potential reliance on grouper spawning aggregations for sustenance and how this may impact fisheries and marine protected areas managements form the focus of our first project in Pohnpei, the capital state of the FSM. We are also investigating the spatio-temporal behavior of coastal manta rays around the islands and their capture vulnerabilities to the tuna-purse seine fisheries.



PANAMA
Panama is bounded by the Caribbean and the Pacific yet scarce information exists on the status of its sharks and rays. Panama is also host to one of the remnant populations of critically endangered largemouth sawfish. MarAlliance is conducting fisheries-dependent and independent monitoring of fish and working to protect sawfish throughout the country. We conduct research and outreach in several sites along the Caribbean and the Pacific including the indigenous Guna Yala Comarca, where we work with local fishing communities to help them combat invasive lionfish, and assess the status of marine megafauna and small scale fisheries.



CABO VERDE
The status of sharks and rays in the Eastern Atlantic is poorly known, as is their connectivity with the Western Atlantic. Working with traditional fishers and institutional partners, we are conducting the first fisheries-dependent and -independent assessments and long-term monitoring of sharks and rays in Cabo Verde, including critical nursery areas. This work gives us a platform to focus on the spatial ecology of large, threatened and highly migratory elasmobranchs, data deficient species and to conduct broad outreach and education to create alliances between these species and local communities.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM
Marine tourism needs educated participants, sustainable sourced seafood, fair distribution of income and well-managed encounters with wildlife and wild places to be sustainable. Working with the tourism sector we conduct outreach, develop guidelines for best practices and assess the non-consumptive value and visitor perceptions of marine wildlife encounters to support and guide more responsible marine tourism.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGE FOR DURABLE CONSERVATION
We build on our educational and broad awareness efforts to shift mindsets to improve the conservation of marine resources, reduce the use of unsustainable fishing gears, support sustainable seafood consumption, and reduce plastic pollution. We measure the success of these activities through surveys and other tools. We have adapted and expanded our outreach and approaches in Belize, Honduras, Panama and Cabo Verde.

NIÑOS DEL MAR
Our children are the future stewards of nature. To engage and empower them to become well informed and fearless champions of marine wildlife and their habitats we created the global Niños del MAR program. We introduce local children to marine science and conservation through the lens of sharks and rays. Using class and experiential field-based activities, we create the next generation of marine scientists and advocates to catalyze informed grassroots conservation action.

REEF-ASSOCIATED SHARKS AND RAYS
Coral reefs are known to be more resilient in the presence of high predator biomass, notably sharks and rays. We establish baselines and conduct long term monitoring of the reef's top predators to identify trends in abundance in relation to habitat changes, fishing, development, and environmental stressors.

HAMMERHEADS
With their distinctive head, large hammerhead species are easily captured in nets and consequently their numbers have plummeted. We focus on these endangered animals to assess their status in our program sites and develop strategies for the restoration of their populations.

WHALE SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS
The world's largest shark and ray are perfect icons for the study of marine wildlife. With over 21 years of experience studying these species' populations, behavior, spatial ecology, and conservation status, we have integrated research and monitoring results into site-specific and international management and conservation efforts.

TURTLES
Long-lived and highly vulnerable to fisheries and nesting predation, turtle life histories are poorly known. We conduct broad in-water monitoring to assess diversity, abundance, and densities of turtles in coastal and reef-associated habitats.

GROUPERS
Known to many as tasty fish, these long-lived species are reef and coastal habitat architects that play an important role in maintaining the resilience of reefs. Our fisheries studies - dependent and independent - of highly threatened species and their spawning aggregations have shaped conservation action and protection of fish spawning aggregations (FSA).

ARTISANAL FISHERIES
The majority of coastal and reef-associated fisheries in the countries where we work are small scale commercial and artisanal. Characterizing their scope, volume, and species focus, including fish spawning aggregations (FSA), supports the development of strategies to reduce fishing pressures on large vulnerable fish.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
Are these marine management units effective in protecting large mobile species of fish and turtles? We investigate this question to support protected areas management and siting by using standardized monitoring methods that enable local, national, and international comparisons of the status of large marine wildlife, notably reef-associated sharks and rays.

FISHER ENGAGEMENT & INCOME DIVERSIFICATION
Reducing fishing pressure often requires the identification of income diversification with fishers. Our research and long-term monitoring provides one form of culturally acceptable income diversification for traditional fishers and provides a platform to engage and inform, and identify additional means of reducing fishing pressures on marine wildlife.



MISSION

MarAlliance explores, enables, and inspires positive change for threatened marine wildlife, their critical habitats, and dependent human communities.

We work with fishers and other marine stakeholders to generate and disseminate essential data on threatened marine megafauna such as sharks, rays, turtles, and large finfish while promoting sustainable fishing and income diversification. Our work underpins timely fact-based conservation and management, notably with standardized and replicable survey methods used in the context of marine protected areas.

 @MarAlliance
Join us in protecting big fish and find us on social media or contact us at info@maralliance.org.



OUR VISION

Marine wildlife thriving throughout the world's tropical seas with community support and inspiring people to conservation action

Your support will strengthen critical research, outreach, and conservation action for marine megafauna and provide income diversification for traditional fishers.

PARTNERS

Belize: Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize Fisheries Department, Belize Audubon Society (BAS), University of Belize-Environmental Research Institute (UB-ERI), Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA), Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), Southern Environmental Association (SEA), Oceana, Wildtracks, Belize Zoo, Blue Ventures and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Cabo Verde: Direcção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA), Fundação Tartaruga, Associação dos Pescadores e das Peixeiras da Boavista (APPBV), Projeto Biodiversidade, Delegação Escolar da Boavista, Ministério da Agricultura e Ambiente (MAA)

Honduras: DIGEPESCA, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería (SAG), Roatán Marine Park (RMP), Dirección de Biodiversidad (DIBIO/MiAmbiente), Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH), CREDIA, Marina Mercante, Asociación de Conservación de Islas de la bahía (BICA), Comité para la Defensa y Desarrollo de la Flora y Fauna del Golfo de Fonseca (CODDEFFAGOLF), HRI

Mexico: Comision de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Comunidad y Biodiversidad, Razonatura, Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR)

Micronesia FSM: Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Panama: Ministerio de Ambiente, Ministerio de Educación, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, MarViva, Universidad Marítima Internacional de Panamá, Universidad de Panamá, Open Blue, Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Humano, Ciudad del Saber

UK: University of Exeter, The Shark Trust, Wildlife Press, Whitley Fund for Nature

USA: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), The Houston Zoo, The Wildlife Conservation Network, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, Association of Zoos and Aquariums



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WHO WE ARE

Our team has over 155 years of collective experience in marine research, monitoring, fisheries, capacity training, education, outreach, communication and policy support.

We are a US and locally registered non-profit and work internationally with a network of partners with country bases in Belize, Honduras, Panama and Cabo Verde.

We are nimble, preemptive and responsive, which helps us to meet the challenges of continuously changing fields of research and conservation.

HOW WE WORK

Our team works collaboratively with partners from the fishing, tourism, government, non-profit, academic, and private sectors to assess, conserve, and restore populations of threatened marine wildlife. Within the scope of our mission, we conduct baseline assessments, establish monitoring programs, characterize target species' spatial ecology and population demographics, assess artisanal fisheries, and examine the effectiveness of marine protected areas. Capacity building of partners and targeted and public outreach and education cut across all projects. We focus on projects with an identified need most often based on requests from our partners

or communities. We share our approach and work from the start with fishers and their communities, who ultimately are best placed to effect changes that impact marine wildlife. Integrating fishers in research is critical, as they bring complementary skills and knowledge built on years of experience. We simultaneously engage with donors, partners and decision and policy-makers to generate political will and support for our key threatened species. Reciprocal learning, engagement, skills-building and an open mindset are key to long-term, locally-based, adaptive and innovative conservation - all essential building blocks of MarAlliance.

DONATIONS

DONATE

Become an ally:
Support conservation action for threatened marine wildlife by making a tax deductible donation to MarAlliance.

www.maralliance.org/donate

