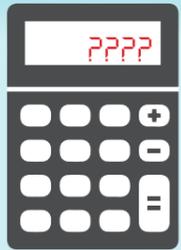


The Galapagos Bullhead Shark Project

The Galapagos Bullhead Shark Project (GBSP) focuses on a little known species which, since its discovery 175 years ago, has been almost 'forgotten' by science. The project began in 2015, will run for three years in total, and has been supported by the Galapagos Conservation Trust since its inception.

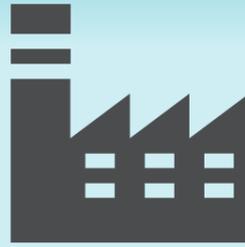
PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GALAPAGOS BULLHEAD SHARK



LACK OF INFORMATION: It is listed as Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List.



FISHERIES BY-CATCH: Few studies have evaluated the shark by-catch in the Galapagos, this species is commonly caught in the industrial trawl fisheries along the continental coast of South America.



MARINE POLLUTION: Bullheads inhabit relatively shallow coastal areas and thus might be affected by pollution and runoff from cities and agriculture.



CLIMATE CHANGE: This species is associated with cold water therefore their behaviour and reproduction may be affected by warming of the ocean temperature.

PROJECT AIMS



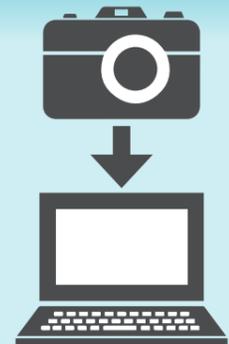
THE PROJECT AIMS to rediscover this little known shark species.



WITH CURRENT THREATS to shark populations it is time to act now. The project aims to evaluate the level of protection of bullhead sharks and determine possible management practices in order to improve conservation of this species and its habitats.



NEW SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY will enable us to discover the bullhead's genetic structure, population size and to identify key habitats.



YOU CAN HELP! Our citizen science approach encourages local communities and visitors to share photos on an online database www.bullheads.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Its name in Spanish is *Tiburón Gato de Galápagos* which translates as 'cat shark of the Galapagos'

Its preferred habitats are thought to be sandy and rocky bottoms in inshore areas. Often found resting on rock ledges in water 3-30 metres deep.

Unlike larger sharks, the Galapagos Bullhead Sharks are poor swimmers and spend much of their time sedentary. Their large pectoral fins allow them to crawl along the sea bed.

They are nocturnal, foraging only at night for shellfish, crabs and small marine invertebrates.

The Galapagos Bullhead Shark regurgitates the hard shells from the prey it eats!