# Project Brief

## Deep-Sea Sharks
## Belize, Honduras

2019-BZ-HN-DS1

MARALLIANCE
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Since 2015, MarAlliance has been conducting research into the deep-sea sharks that inhabit the MesoAmerican Reef (MAR). We use a combination of scientific vertical longline and a specially-designed baited remote underwater video (BRUV) to investigate the abundance and distribution of these little-studies species in depths greater than 150 meters.

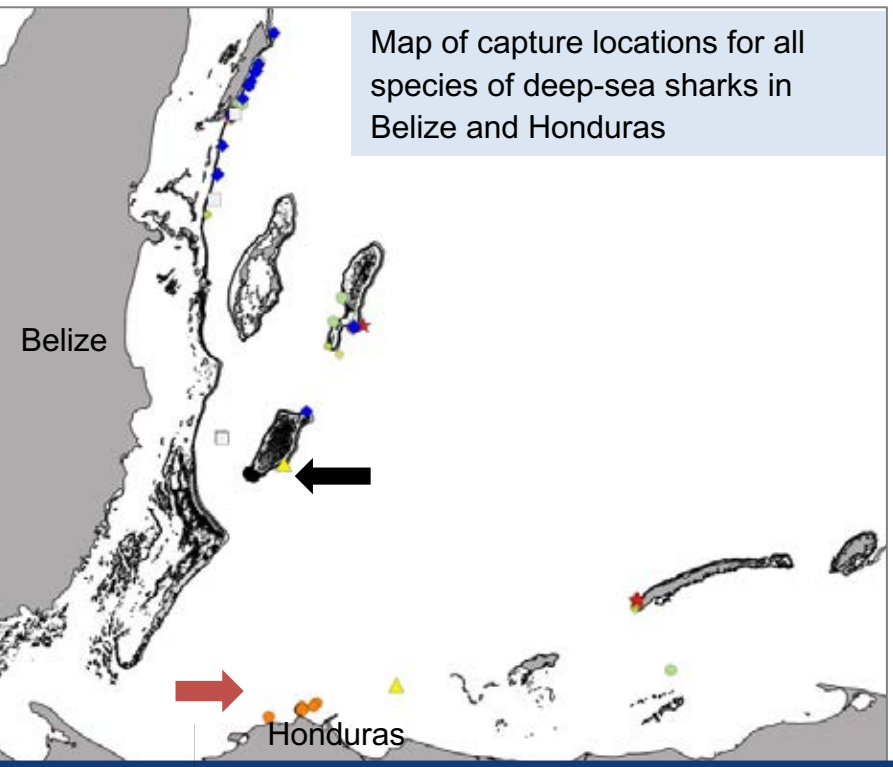



**800** Vertical longlines

**12** Species of sharks captured

**63** Underwater videos

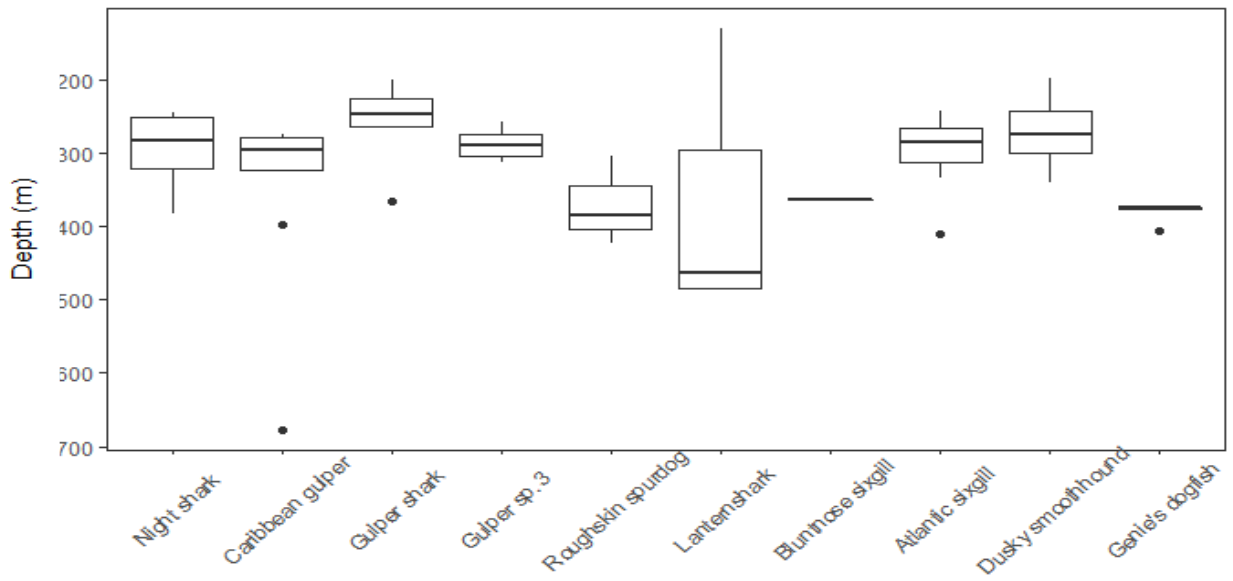
**??** **6** Species not yet identified




Map of capture locations for all species of deep-sea sharks in Belize and Honduras

Findings indicate that species diversity is high and varies widely among regions. We have documented a potential mating aggregation of night sharks (*Carcharhinus signatus* black arrow) in Belize and identified a possible nursery area for juvenile gulper sharks (*Centrophorus sp.)* in Honduras (red arrow).

*Icons from flaticon.com: Freepik, Eucalyp*




Depths of capture for all sharks captured in Belize and Honduras

One new species has been described - the Atlantic sixgill shark (*Hexanchus vitulus*), and we are currently working with colleagues to use taxonomy and genetics to identify six species of lanternsharks *(Etmopterus* spp.), dogfishes *(Squalus* spp.), smoothhhounds (*Mustelus* spp.) and gulper sharks *(Centrophorus* spp). Deep-sea sharks are among the least-studied animals in the world, so each new capture brings new knowledge to the field.

Taking measurements of a gulper shark for taxonomic identification

A dusky smoothhound shark captured on camera at 350 m in Belize

The BRUV is used to identify benthic habitats, potential prey items, and non-invasively “capture” deep-sea sharks in their natural environments. Designed to be light-weight, it is deployed and retrieved by hand, giving us insights into habitats that have never been seen before!

Marine Conservation Action Fund at New England Aquarium

save our seas foundation

IDEA WILD

The Rufford Foundation

THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION

For more information visit www.maralliance.org