

In 2015 MarAlliance identified the area known as the Baía de Sal Rei in northwestern Boavista, Cabo Verde as being used as a nursery area for several shark species. In 2016, we began monitoring work with a focus on the endangered scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*).

We use standardized scientific fishing techniques that allow us to investigate species diversity, abundance and site fidelity while engaging local fishers in the monitoring. We aim to understand how neonate and young-of-the-year (YOY) sharks use the area of the bay during this critical part of their development.



12 Fishers trained in monitoring methods

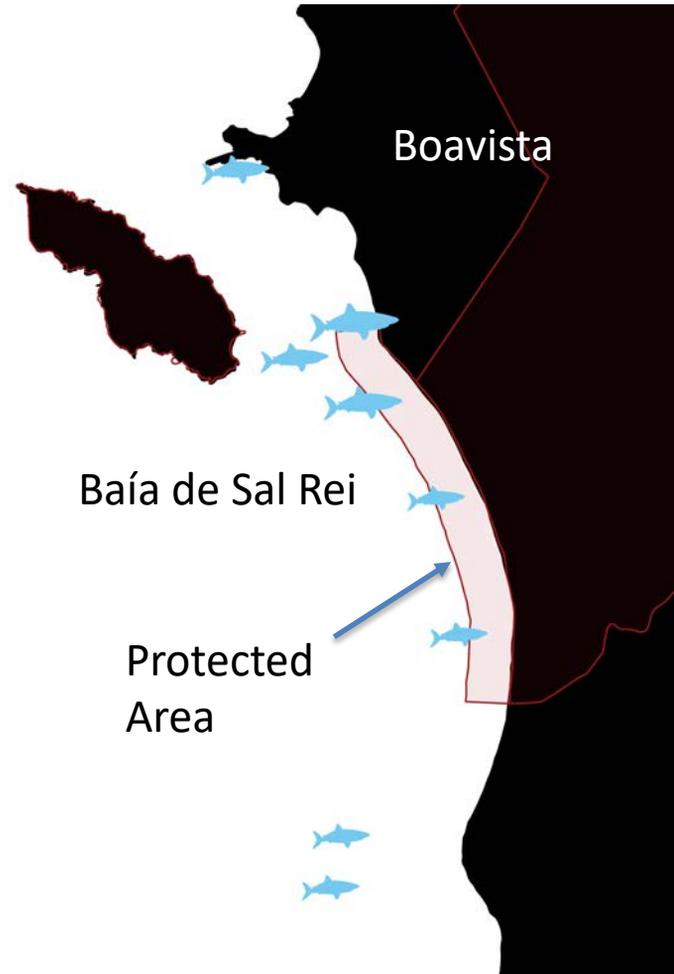


7 Number of species caught



49 Sharks *spaghetti* tagged

> Map of the area known as the Baía de Sal Rei in northwestern Boavista with the distribution of neonate and juvenile sharks caught during monitoring (2016-2018). Larger icons indicate higher relative abundance. The areas in red are the current protected areas possessing a marine component.

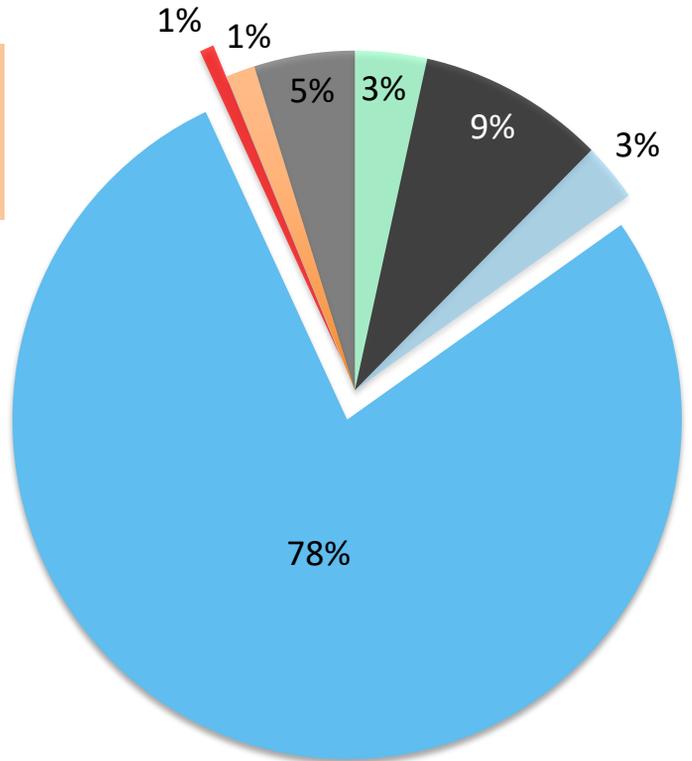




< Scientific fishing allows us to make accurate species identification, take biometric measurements, DNA samples and 'spaghetti tag' individual sharks (pictured), whilst prioritizing the health of each individual shark. By tagging and releasing individuals as part of a 'capture, mark, recapture' study we are able to investigate site fidelity, establish key habitats and help to quantify the size of the population using these sites allowing us to monitor changes over time.

> Graph showing the total composition of catches during scientific fishing surveys in the Baía de Sal Rei (2016-2018). 6 species of shark and 1 ray species have been identified.

- Atlantic weasel
- Blacktip
- Hammerhead
- Milk
- Round stingray
- Smoothhound
- Spinner



< Many shark species are known to give birth near the coast. These zones are known as 'nursery areas' and are critical habitat that provide protection from other predators allowing young sharks to develop in relative safety. Such sites are important in maintaining healthy populations of sharks.

Fishing effort can often be higher in nursery sites due to their proximity to towns and cities and young sharks are particularly vulnerable due to their predictable behavior and are often caught with a range of gear types. By understanding how sharks use these sites, we aim to provide information that can better inform management including the expansion or creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that include critical habitat.



For more information visit www.maralliance.org