

1 OCEAN CITSCI WITH CAS

As part of the WCT-Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Endangered Species Grants Programme (WCT-BEES Grants) project titled, 'Conservation of Critically Endangered Hammerhead sharks of India via Participatory Science', a two-day training workshop was conducted for 37 Marine biology, BfSc and MFSc students of Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS), Annamalai University, Parangipettai, Tamil Nadu on 3 and 4 April 2025.

The workshop focused on training the coastal youth (fisheries/biology students) to document sharks or bycatch trade in their nearest fishing harbour using the citizen science website developed by 1 OCEAN team. The topics were Status of sharks in India and the threats; Photographic guidelines that help identify sharks for citizen science; Data gaps to address their conservation; and how citizen science helps in conservation followed by introduction of **1OCEAN Citizen Science website**, and how to use it.

The students were taken to the Annankovil and Mudasol Odai fishing landing sites for a practical session on how to observe the proceedings at landing sites, record fish catches, interact with fishers and to instill conservation thinking. The training session was given by Usha Ravindra (Conservationist at Zooreach and Project lead). The program was successfully run thanks to support from the University faculty, Dr. Vijayanand and Zooreach team member, Kritika P.



Usha Ravindra, Research Assistant at 1OCEAN & SAsISG,
Zoo Outreach Organisation.



Citizen Science

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Zooreach Activity Update



Training session on how to use citizen science website developed by 10CEAN team for fish landings at harbours by Usha Ravindra (© Kritika P.)



Students getting trained in photographic guidelines that help in shark identification at Mudasal Odai fish Landing centre on 4 April 2025. (© Usha Ravindra)



Dr. Vijayanand, Assistant Professor at CAS, assisting the workshop proceedings. (© Usha Ravindra)



Playing predator (sharks) & prey game coupled with impacts of trawling on the food chain. (© Kritika P.)



Marine life landings at Mudasal Odai fish landing centre on 4 April 2025. (© Usha Ravindra)



Students recording fish composition (Ray finned fish, Bill fishes, and Tunas) at Annan Kovil fish landing centre on 4 April 2025. (© Usha Ravindra)



Students interacting with fishers at Mudasal Odai fish landing centre on 4 April 2025. (© Usha Ravindra)