



28/11 - 06/12/2021
Mexico (Revillagigedos)

Gigantic encounters!

by Madalena Cabral

At the end of 2021 Dr Bob Rubin and Madalena Cabral participated in a citizen science trip aboard the Nautilus Explorer. One of our goal was to collect photo-ID pictures from giant manta rays (*Mobula birostris*) with the help of all the wonderful guests onboard.

The favourite locations for giant manta ray sighting were El Boiler and Cabo Pearce where we were also gifted with dolphins and a big school of hammerhead sharks.

The guests showed great interest in the presentations given by the scientists and were taken by Dr Rubin's charisma. They learned about the photo-ID process, how to identify sex, morphotype and different mobula species. We also talked about the importance of Revillagigedo as a protected area, cleaning stations and how research would be impossible without the contribution of all divers and service providers who collaborate in the data collection, allowing us to add to our database and understand the long-term population dynamics in this unique place.

It was an amazing trip with guests from different countries such as Canada, the USA, Germany, Switzerland, Brazil among others. I would like to thank Manta Trust for this wonderful opportunity to work alongside Dr Bob Rubin who has such insight and admiration for these animals as do we for his contribution to giant manta conservation along the years.

