Bogotá D.C., 07 de mayo de 2015

Doctor

**Juan Carlos Salcedo-Reyes**

Universitas Scientiarum

Facultad de Ciencias

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Carrera 7 No 43-82, Edificio 52, Carlos Ortiz

Bogotá, Colombia

Dear Dr. Salcedo-Reyes:

Please find enclosed for consideration the following manuscript entitled: **First record of *Squalus cubensis* (Squalidae) in Isla Fuerte, Colombia**. Authors: Diana María Orozco-Velásquez and Fabio Gómez-Delgado.

This study contributes to expanding our knowledge with relation to the distribution of the deep sea shark *Squalus cubensis* in our country. Previously, this species has been recorded mainly in the continental slope of northeastern coast (department of Magdalena), and also in the San Andres archipelago area. Our research found this species in the area of influence of Isla Fuerte, close to the department of Córdoba in the southern continental shelf of the Colombian Caribbean. We feel this would be of interest to your audience because it is a contribution to existing information on the distribution of this species in our country and the Caribbean. Also, even there are some reports on the presence of this species in Colombia, currently there is no record of *S. cubensis* in SIB (Sistema de Información sobre Biodiversidad de Colombia), and so we want to contribute with our research.

This paper has not been published previously and is not under consideration elsewhere. The authors are responsible for the reported research, and have participated in the concept and design, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting or revising of the manuscript, and have approved the manuscript as submitted. The data, models, and methodology used in the research are proprietary and comply with the legal requirements of Colombia.

We recommend the following international and local Ph.D. scientists for the evaluation of this paper:

**International**

**Dr. Enric Cortés** (Spain). Research Fishery Biologist - NOAA. email:enric.cortez@noaa.gov

**Dr. Oscar Sosa-Nishisaki** (México). Biological Oceanography – CICESE. email: ososa@cicese.mx

**Dr. Ramón Bonfil** (México). [Marine Biology](https://www.academia.edu/People/Marine_Biology), [Fisheries](https://www.academia.edu/People/Fisheries), [Fish Biology](https://www.academia.edu/People/Fish_Biology), [Aquatic Ecology](https://www.academia.edu/People/Aquatic_Ecology). [Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco](https://ufrpe.academia.edu/). email: ramon.bonfil@gmail.com

**National**

**Dr. Andrés Felipe Navia.** Ecology and Fishery of Sharks and Rays. Fundación Squalus. email: anavia@squalus.org

Thank you for your consideration of our work. Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to Diana María Orozco-Velásquez (ictiologa3007@yahoo.es).

Sincerely,

**Diana María Orozco-Velásquez** **Fabio Gómez-Delgado**

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Attachment: Manuscript

 Tables (1)

 Figures (2)