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Volume 9, Number 3  
**ESR THEME SECTION**

Printed January 2010

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## Forensic methods in conservation research

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Forensic methods have been used to trace the origin of marketed shark fins. Scalloped hammerhead sharks *Sphyma lewini* are particularly vulnerable to capture for the fin trade because of their predictable schooling behaviour, especially at seamounts. This photograph was taken at Cocos Island in the eastern Pacific.

*Photo: Save Our Seas Foundation*

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*This ESR THEME SECTION focuses on the use of forensic methods in conservation research. There are a number of high precision methodologies that are becoming ever more useful in the study of ecology and*

*conservation of endangered species, often allowing critical insight. These include: molecular genetic fingerprinting; stable isotope, trace element and compound analysis; and forensic pathology. Here, along with invited reviews from international experts, we have a number of original manuscripts that encompass the full spectrum of these techniques.*

*As for all current ESR articles, we are pleased to make the online version of this ESR THEME SECTION available with Open Access.*

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