

## JUVENILE SHARK STUDY: SPURDOG NURSERY IN LOCH ETIVE

Loch Etive acts as part of a nursery network for the Critically Endangered NE Atlantic spurdog *Squalus acanthias*. Some adults of this highly migratory species display strong site association to the loch<sup>1</sup>, but much less is known about site association displayed in juvenile spurdog. In November 2014, SIORC launched the first mark-recapture study of juvenile spurdog to assess movements related to the loch environment. A total of 114 mixed-sex juveniles were fitted with dart ID tags in the loch's upper basins.



Future recaptures will be used to validate observational data of a potential Loch Etive spurdog nursery. This could have significant conservation implications for the spatial management of sites like Loch Etive that support several different age classes of migratory species like spurdog that exhibit site association<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Thorburn JT, Neat F, Bailey DM, Noble LR, Jones CS. 2015. Winter residency and site association in the Critically Endangered North East Atlantic spurdog *Squalus acanthias*. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 526, 113-124.



The SIORC spurdog study represents a combined MASTS effort between the University of Aberdeen, Heriot-Watt University, Marine Scotland Science, and Scottish Natural Heritage.