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This week in Pretoma news (Dec. 5th)

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Illegal Hawksbill Sea Turtle Jewelry Confiscated at Christmas Fair

Officials from the Ministry of the Environment and Telecommunications (MINAET), along with representatives from Costa Rican NGOs Pretoma, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, and Widecast, confiscated illegal jewelry made from endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) shells for sale at the Christmas festival in Guadalupe.

MINAET officials in street clothes and NGO members walked through the various temporary craft shops that line the barrio's central park this holiday season, confirming that hawksbill rings and bracelets were for sale. After the shops were pinpointed, uniformed officials moved in and confiscated over 300 illegal hawksbill rings and several bracelets. A judge will rule on the individual cases and the jewelry will more than likely be destroyed. [Watch the video.](#)



Forum of Experts Discuss Bill to Demote Leatherback National Park

A panel of six experts convened at the University of Costa Rica in front of an audience of over 70 students, conservationists, and academics, to present their different points of view regarding development and conservation issues that surround the future of Las Baulas National Park in Guanacaste. Passionate arguments were offered for and against bill 17.383 which proposes to demote the park to a Wildlife Refuge. Also in attendance were local community members whose future will be affected one way or another from the outcome. While nothing was decided, it became clear that a greater dialogue was needed between long term property owners, investors, neighboring communities, grass roots organizations, national conservation organizations, and government officers to save the leatherback sea turtles of Las Baulas.



Members at the main table were (left to right):

Randal Arauz (Pretoma); Didiher Chacon (Widecast); Laura Jaen (Association of Local Guides of Matapalo); Mario Arias (University of Costa Rica); Vianney Saborio (Lawyer for property owners); Manfred Marshall (local property owner).

Pretoma denounces shrimp trawler for invading the waters of the Caletas Ario National Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica

On December 2nd, members of Pretoma appeared at an Oral and Private Hearing before Incopesca's Direction of Judicial Fisheries Procedures, to refer to a suit filed by them against the shrimp trawler "Luis Guillermo", which was caught on video operating illegally in the protected waters of the Caletas-Ario National Wildlife Refuge, during the night of last April 17, 2009 ([watch video](#)). Prior to the hearing, the defense lawyer's request for the process be "definitely revoked", was duly rejected. A final resolution by the Direction is expected during the next few months. [Read submitted law suit](#) (Spanish only).



Artisanal fishing presidents voice their opinions on sustainable management of the Golfo Dulce

"As Presidents of the six small-scale artisanal fishing associations which gather 186 fishermen, we hereby state and emphasize that we support the creation of the Marine Area for Responsible Fishing and we request an explanation and a clarification of the false declarations published in this magazine on November 27th 2009.

In regards with the information which has circulated after the press release disclosed by Pretoma and a group of commercial fishermen who do not practice artisan fishing activities, it is important to clarify that Mr. Victor Rocha in this opportunity acted on behalf of the Civic Front of Golfito's Fishing Sector, group to which we do

not belong since we are small-scale artisan fishermen.”

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[Read full press release](#)

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- Arias, Leave the Leatherbacks Alone
- Ban the importation of shark fins
- National Park Extension
- No Tuna Farms
- Sharks and Sea Turtles Census Expedition in Southern Nicoya Peninsula
- Smile Back at Sharks
- Vote to Award the Caletas Wetland an International Grey Globe
- (Español) Carta al Presidente

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- Sharks Alive
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- United Nations BBNJ Implementing Agreement
- (Español) Pesca de Camarón por Arrastre

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