

## Supplementary Material

### **COVID-19 impacts on beaches and coastal water pollution at selected sites in Ecuador, and management proposals post-pandemic.**

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**Table 1.** Questionnaire for Salinas, Manta and Galapagos. Scientific names were not requested as the public will not have this knowledge.

	<b>Questions Salinas and Manta</b>
<b>Q1</b>	Have beach and water quality visually changed? Yes or No
<b>Q2</b>	What has changed about the sand/water? a) It is cleaner, b) There is less plastic and c) The water is more transparent.
<b>Q3</b>	Is there less noise on the beach?
<b>Q4</b>	Is there more fish activity close to the beach?
<b>Q5</b>	Which option do you think looks most recurring? a) Fish in general, b) Sharks, c) Manta-rays, d) Dolphins e) Whales, f) Others
<b>Q6</b>	Supposing a lot of people come suddenly, what do you think the impact would be?
<b>Q7</b>	Do you agree that tourism must be reactivated in an orderly manner? Yes or No
<b>Q8</b>	From 1 to 5. How do you rate the beaches of Manta before the quarantine? Being: 1) worst 2) regular 3) acceptable 4) good 5) excellent
<b>Q9</b>	From 1 to 5. How do you rate the beaches of Manta after quarantine? Being: 1) worst 2) regular 3) acceptable 4) good 5) excellent
<b>Q10</b>	Do you know if Manta has a wastewater treatment plant?
<b>Q11</b>	To which area of activity (work) do you feel identified?
	<b>Questions Galapagos</b>
<b>Q1</b>	Have you observed more fauna such as sea lions on the beaches or the pier? Yes or No
<b>Q2</b>	If the answer is yes above on a scale of 1 to 5, how much more?
<b>Q3</b>	Have you seen less plastic or trash on the beaches? Yes or No
<b>Q4</b>	If the answer is yes above on a scale of 1 to 5, how much more?
<b>Q5</b>	Have you noticed improvement in water clarity? Yes or No
<b>Q6</b>	Have you observed increased activity / presence of Sea Turtles? Yes or No
<b>Q7</b>	If the answer is yes above on a scale of 1 to 5, how much more?
<b>Q8</b>	Have you seen more shark activity near the beach?
<b>Q9</b>	Does the presence of fewer boats, noise and traffic seem to have contributed to the return of wildlife to certain places? Yes or No
<b>Q10</b>	Do you think that taking information and data such as water quality could improve future management of beaches and visits to them?
<b>Q11</b>	To which area of activity (work) do you feel identified?

**Photo 1.** Upper panel. Algae growth on a rock. Left. Just after the first pandemic restrictions were lifted (June 2020). Right. After few months restrictions to be on beaches were eased (Jan 2021). Lower panel. Station D beach. Left, just after second lockdowns restrictions were partially lifted (Sep/2020) Right. Few months after restrictions, early 2021. This beach is cleaned every week by Ormaza-González and Vera-Mosquera (2021) since June 2019.



**Photo 2.** Type of plastics found; microplastics (under 5 mm diameter). Station D. Ormaza-González and Vera Mosquera (2021).





**Photo 3.** Type of plastic found in beaches in Salinas. Station D. Station D. Ormaza-González and Vera Mosquera (2021).

