

Fish Zooarcheology Topic of HAS September 28th, 2015 Lab

One of our newest HAS members, Eréndira (Eren) M. Quintana Morales, a postdoctoral fellow at Rice University, presented a terrific workshop on fish zooarcheology and fish osteology at the HAS lab at Rice University on September 28th. I think we set a new record for the number of folks attending - nineteen HAS members and Rice students showed up for the workshop. Eren broke her presentation down into three basic sections.

1. What are fish? Fish come in all shapes and sizes: from tiny anchovies to great white sharks, elongated eels to flattened rays. The she gave a quick review of the key characteristics that define this diverse group.

2. Why study fish? Fishing is a major economic strategy around world in the past and present. She presented a brief overview of what we can learn from analyzing fish remains collected at archaeological sites, including seasonality, diet, and technology.

3. How to identify fish? Using actual fish skeletons Eren explained that the typical fish skeleton is made up of many interestingly shaped bones from head to tail fin. In this major component of the lab, we looked at the most common fish bones found in archaeological sites that can be used to identify species.

The lab was so popular and so interesting we may have Eren come back to present a Part II. In the meantime, here are some photos of the class.



Eren teaches the class



Examples of fish bones