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Local firm provides GIS services for the Costa Maya Station of Global Vision International in Mahahual, Mexico.

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John Schaeffer and Patti Bailey of Juniper GIS Services, Inc. recently spent five weeks working with Global Vision International (GVI) Mexico at the Costa Maya Station in Mahahual, Mexico. The work was to monitor the health of fish and coral along the Mesoamerican barrier reef which runs along the Caribbean from the Yucatan to Honduras and is the second largest coral reef system in the world.

Initially they learned to identify and monitor all fish and coral in the area. They then developed a plan to incorporate existing data into a GIS (Geographic Information System). Information about this area came from a variety of sources, including GVI monitoring sites and GVI local partners, Amigos de Sian Ka'an, and the Mexican Navy. The result was to produce GIS imagery and data for the region that GVI has monitored in its two years at the Costa Maya Station. With ArcGIS, they began to blend satellite imagery, GPS and cartographical information, and, most excitingly, the growing database GVI Mahahual has been amassing.



John Schaeffer establishes GPS points on the beach to orient fish & coral monitoring sites.



Juniper GIS provided a laptop for the project and arranged for a donation of the very latest ArcGIS package from ESRI (Environmental Scientific Research Institute). "The time and effort that John and Patti have put into GIS during their time here has been such a useful step for us" says GVI Mexico's Director of Programmes, Danny Ponce Taylor, "Now we can really begin utilizing this powerful analytical tool, and add a new dimension to our work here in Mexico. GVI Mahahual and GVI Mexico would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to both Juniper GIS and ESRI for their amazing support and generosity, and hope that we can begin to use these new tools to further our GIS analysis in the future." For additional information go to [www.juniperigis.com](http://www.juniperigis.com) and [www.gvi.co.uk](http://www.gvi.co.uk).

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