

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Dr William David Robbins
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Education

- 2007: PhD. School of Marine Biology, James Cook University.
Dissertation examined the abundance, growth, demography and population structure of Indo-Pacific carcharhinid sharks.
- 1994: B.Sc (Hons) (Marine Biology, Biochemistry), James Cook University.

Recent Professional Experience

2011 - present

Founder and Research Scientist, Wildlife Marine

Wildlife Marine is a consultancy/research business which I founded in late 2011. Through Wildlife Marine I produce international peer-reviewed research, undertake fisheries management reviews for governments and NGOs and teach final-year university fisheries courses. Projects undertaken or collaborated on include the hosting of an international shark management workshop for Arabian fisheries managers, formal assessment of vulnerable shark management practices, peer-review of state government shark management findings, quantification of human-shark interactions, analysis of reef shark predation rates, determination of whitetip reef shark genetic stock structure across the Indo-Pacific, investigation of electromagnetic shark deterrents, tracking of white sharks in Southern Australia and determination of growth and reproduction of commercially-harvested teleosts.

2007 - 2011

Research Scientist, NSW DPI (Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence)

While at NSW DPI I quantified the levels of *Critically Endangered* grey nurse (sand tiger) shark bycatch from recreational fishing gears and examined the use of magnetic fields as potential shark deterrents. I also led an examination of the efficacy of aerial surveys to detect coastal sharks and concurrently co-ran the Inshore Shark Movement Program, telemetry tracking dusky sharks in NSW waters. I also upgraded and managed the Cronulla Fisheries Ageing Facility, taught fish age and growth analysis and interpretation, managed fish collection for dioxin research, coordinated the NSW Shark Meshing Program's biological collections and investigated shark attacks in NSW waters. I also assisted with a crittercam project examining the movements and behaviour of bull sharks in Sydney Harbour. Each program required my supervision of technical staff and often university interns.

2002 - 2006

Coordinator and primary presenter of tropical fish age & demography workshops (2002). Presented in Muscat, Oman and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Coordinator and research diver for underwater marine surveys (2004 – 2006). Multiple contracts ran through James Cook University for National Geographic, the Department of Environment and Heritage and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Responsible for quantifying the abundance of sharks, fishes and corals on tropical and temperate coral reef systems.

Laboratory manager and instructor, School of Marine Biology Fish Ageing Laboratory. James Cook University (2000 – 2006).

Lecturer/demonstrator. James Cook University (2002 – 2006).
1st - 3rd year undergraduate and postgraduate Marine Biology courses.

Safety Diver. Careflight Australia/Australian Army, Townsville (2004 – 2006). Responsible for in-water safety during Helicopter Underwater Escape Training.

Professional Skills & Certificates

- AS 2815.1 Australian ADAS commercial diver certificate (>1000 logged dives)
- Queensland recreational vessel license (788 days logged at sea)
- Marine radio operator's Certificate of Proficiency (MF, HF & VHF)
- Open driving license (with 4WD certification)
- Qld Justice of the Peace (Qualified)

Professional Associations

- Reviewer, *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems, Conservation Biology, Coral Reefs, Fishery Bulletin, Journal of the Marine Biological Association, Marine Ecology Progress Series*; Doctoral thesis examiner for *The University of Queensland* and *Murdoch University*; Grant reviewer for *National Geographic Society*
- Oceania Chondrichthyan Society member (committee member since 2012)

Selected Publications

Reports & manuals

- **Robbins WD**. 2012. *Science-based management for sustainable shark fisheries*. International Shark Management Workshop, 2012. Wildlife Marine, Perth. 76 pp.
- **Robbins WD**, Peddemors VM and Kennelly SK. 2012. *Assessment of shark sighting rates by aerial beach patrols*. Fisheries final report series no. 132. Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence, NSW Department of Primary Industries. 38 pp.
- Choat JH, van Herwerden L, **Robbins WD**, Hobbs JP and Ayling AM. 2006. *A report on the ecological surveys undertaken at Middleton and Elizabeth reefs, February 2006*. James Cook University, Townsville. 65pp

Selected peer-reviewed articles

- Robbins R, Enarson M, Bradford R, **Robbins WD** and Fox A. *In review*. Site fidelity, residency, and local connectivity of white sharks at Liguanea Island; Identification of a secondary aggregation site in South Australia. *Marine and Freshwater Research*
- Gray CA, Barnes LM, Van der Meulen DE, Kendall BW, Ochwada-Doyle FA and **Robbins WD**. *In press*. Depth interactions and reproductive ecology of sympatric Sillaginidae: *Sillago robusta* and *S. flindersii*. *Aquatic Biology*
- Huveneers C and **Robbins WD**. *In press*. Species at the intersection. In: Klein N, Techera E (eds) *Sharks: Conservation, governance and management*. Earthscan
- Momigliano P, **Robbins WD**, Gardner M and Stow A. 2014. Characterisation of 15 novel microsatellite loci for the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*). *Conservation Genetic Resources Online*
- **Robbins WD**, Peddemors VM, Kennelly SK and Ives, MC. 2014. An experimental evaluation of shark detection rates by aerial observers. *PLoS One* 9(2): e83456
- **Robbins WD**, Peddemors VM, Broadhurst M and Gray CA. 2013. Hooked on fishing? Recreational angling interactions with the *Critically Endangered* grey nurse shark, *Carcharias taurus* in eastern Australia. *Endangered Species Research* 21: 161-170
- Wheeler S, **Robbins WD** and McIlwain J. 2013. Reef sharks clean up with a novel inshore mutualistic interaction. *Coral Reefs*. 32(4): 1089
- Stewart J, **Robbins WD**, Rowling K, Hegarty A and Gould A. 2013. A multifaceted approach to modelling growth of the Australian bonito, *Sarda australis* (Family Scombridae), with some observations on its reproductive biology. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 64: 671-678
- Whitney NM, **Robbins WD**, Schultz JK, Bowen BW and Holland KN. 2012. Oceanic dispersal in a sedentary reef shark (*Triaenodon obesus*): Genetic evidence for extensive connectivity without a pelagic larval stage. *Journal of Biogeography*. 39(6): 1144-1156.
- **Robbins WD**, Peddemors VM and Kennelly SJ. 2011. Assessment of permanent magnets and electropositive metals to reduce the line-based capture of Galapagos sharks, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*. *Fisheries Research* 109: 100-106.
- Reid DD, **Robbins WD** and Peddemors VM. 2011. Decadal trends in shark catches and effort from the New South Wales, Australia Shark Meshing Program 1950 to 2010. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62(6): 676-693.
- Hisano M, Connolly SR and **Robbins WD**. 2011. Population growth rates of reef sharks with and without fishing on the Great Barrier Reef: Robust estimation with multiple models. *PLoS One* 6(9): e25028.
- Hobbs JP, Choat JH, **Robbins WD**, Ayling AM, van Herwerden L, and Feary D. 2008. Unique fish assemblages at world's southernmost oceanic coral reefs, Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs, Tasman Sea, Australia. *Coral Reefs* 27(1): 15.
- **Robbins WD**, Hisano M, Connolly S and Choat JH. 2006. Ongoing collapse of coral reef shark populations. *Current Biology* 16: 2314-2319.
- **Robbins WD**. 2006. Evaluation of two underwater biopsy probes for *in situ* collection of shark tissue samples. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 310: 213-217.