



EDITORIAL

Biology and conservation of elasmobranchs: an introduction to the collection [v1; ref status: not peer reviewed, <http://f1000r.es/43k>]

Charles W. Bangley¹, D. S. Shiffman^{2,3}¹Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, East Carolina University, East 5th Street, Greenville, NC, 27858²Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, University of Miami, 1365 Memorial Drive, Coral Gables, FL, 33146³R.J. Dunlap Marine Conservation Program, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL, 33149

v1 First published: 12 Aug 2014, 3:192 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.4975.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4975.1))
Latest published: 12 Aug 2014, 3:192 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.4975.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4975.1))

Abstract

Elasmobranchs, the taxonomic group comprising sharks, skates and rays, play important roles in society and marine ecology but several species in this subclass are under threat. This collection aims to be an open access hub for articles concerning all areas of elasmobranch biology and conservation. The collection is indefinitely open to further submissions and so will continue to grow as additional articles are added.

Not Peer Reviewed

This article is an Editorial and therefore is not subject to peer review.

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This article is included in the **Elasmobranch Biology & Conservation Collection**

Corresponding author: Charles W. Bangley (bangleyc09@students.ecu.edu)

How to cite this article: Bangley CW and Shiffman DS. **Biology and conservation of elasmobranchs: an introduction to the collection [v1; ref status: not peer reviewed, <http://f1000r.es/43k>]** *F1000Research* 2014, 3:192 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.4975.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4975.1))

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Grant information: The author(s) declared that no grants were involved in supporting this work.

Competing interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

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Editorial

There is increasing public concern about the conservation status of chondrichthyan fishes (Simpfendorfer *et al.*, 2011). A combination of declining populations and economic importance makes management of shark, ray, and chimera fisheries a complex issue. Many conservation issues for these species are exacerbated by a lack of available scientific data (Dulvy *et al.*, 2014) and public misunderstanding (Neff & Heuter, 2013). The sustainability and impact of many elasmobranch fisheries, particularly in the developing world, are currently poorly understood. Even for species that are commonly caught in well-regulated fisheries and are relatively well-studied, there are still surprising discoveries being made that have implications for their conservation and management. Fortunately, researchers are developing new tools for gathering, storing, and sharing data on a global scale.

In this spirit, we are proud to present a special collection of research articles on the biology and conservation of elasmobranchs. The articles range in scope from novel observations on habitat use to the

management of national-level fisheries. The tools used to answer these questions range from the very DNA of the species to databases spanning large geographical and temporal ranges. Species covered range from well-known species with decades of dedicated study to species that are only now beginning to attract research attention.

We hope that this collection will contribute to the ongoing goal of establishing sustainable shark fisheries. By making this collection open access, we hope that this information will be available to researchers, students, fishery managers, and the interested public alike.

Competing interests

No competing interests were disclosed.

Grant information

The author(s) declared that no grants were involved in supporting this work.

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