

Vanessa Flora Jaiteh

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Profile

Marine scientist with diverse experience in the study of tropical fisheries, marine megafauna, bycatch mitigation and fishing livelihoods. Multilingual, with key skills in transdisciplinary assessments of data-poor fisheries and conducting socio-economic surveys alongside the ability to communicate research findings. My primary interest is in the linkages between fishing-induced declines of marine species, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and associated fisheries crime, and their impacts on the lives and livelihoods of coastal fishing communities.

Education

- 2017: **Murdoch University Perth, Western Australia** **PhD**
Thesis title: *'Sharks are important, but so is rice' - Opportunities and challenges for shark fisheries management and livelihoods in eastern Indonesia*. PhD conferred 12th September 2017.
- 2009: **Murdoch University Perth, Western Australia** **Marine Science Honours, 1st Class**
Thesis title: *An assessment of dolphin behaviour and bycatch mitigation methods in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, Western Australia*.
- 2008: **James Cook University Townsville, Queensland** **BSc (Marine Biology)**

Recent Employment

- 10/19 -10/20: **Early Postdoc.Mobility fellow, Swiss National Science Foundation**
This postdoctoral project, titled *'A safe haven for untold casualties? An assessment of bycatch in Palau's tuna longline fishery to evaluate sanctuary benefits and strengthen fisheries management'* is an analysis of bycatch on Taiwanese and Japanese longline vessels fishing Palau's waters for yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Electronic monitoring data collected in a pilot project from 2016-2018 form the basis of the assessment and are compared to human observer records and logsheet data submitted by the vessels' captains. These findings are analysed in the context of a) the recent implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, which closed 80% of the country's EEZ to all extractive activities, and b) interviews with vessel crew on their experience of having EM on board, and their labour conditions more broadly. Recommendations from the study will be made in light of national legislation governing the sanctuary, as well as regional agreements regarding the management of longline tuna fisheries. The project is fully funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and hosted by the National Government of Palau, the Pacific Community (SPC) in New Caledonia, and the Pelagic Fisheries Research Group in Hawaii.
- 10/17- 10/19: **Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism** **Fisheries Scientist**
Fisheries scientist for the Minister. Assignments included the development of the strategic plan for, and implementation of, a nationwide network of anchored fish aggregating devices (FADs); development of the Annual Report of the Bureau of Marine Resources within the Ministry; revisions of existing and proposed laws and input on drafting regulations, including among others regulations for marine resource management, the Endangered Species Act, and the Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act; consultation and liaison with regional and international management bodies and scientific agencies; communication with donors, writing grant applications; editing and publishing the Ministry's monthly newsletter; and representing the Ministry at local and regional meetings, workshops and conferences.

- 05/17 – 1/20: **Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau/GEF & UNDP Small Grants Program** **Researcher**
Lead researcher in a project entitled ‘*Behavioral observations and habitat use of dugongs (Dugong dugon) in the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Koror State, to enhance public awareness and management effectiveness for dugong conservation in Palau*’. The goal of the study was to document drone sightings of Palau’s critically endangered dugong population in a known hotspot for the species, as a baseline for potential future larger-scale studies of Palau’s dugongs, and to revive awareness building efforts in the community, particularly among youth.
- 11/16 – 06/17: **Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau / The Nature Conservancy (Indonesia)** **Consultant**
Identification and analysis of shark and ray bycatch in Indonesian deepwater snapper-grouper fisheries, including advice and recommendations for monitoring bycatch of sharks and rays to address MSC certification criteria.
- 05/16 – 11/16: **Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau / Rare (Micronesia)** **Consultant**
As part of a contract related to supporting fisheries sustainability and policy in Micronesia: Prepared a review report on the UNESCO World Heritage listed Koror State Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan to satisfy requirements for the Plan’s ongoing development and updating process. Developed recommendations and draft revisions of the Management Plan, particularly goals related to Subsistence and Commercial Fisheries Improvement.
- 06/14-03/15: **The Lamakera Project (Indonesia) – Paul Allen Foundation** **Community Liaison Manager**
Local lead of a livelihoods transition project in Lamakera in NTT Province, Indonesia. Designed, carried out and evaluated a comprehensive survey to assess community interest and needs in relation to current and alternative sources of income; facilitated meetings and negotiations between the donor, field team and community members; investigated the potential for FairTrade certification of locally caught tuna to increase the value and sustainability of Lamakera’s fisheries.
- 09-10/13: **Onslow Dugong Aerial Survey (Western Australia)** **Aerial Survey Observer**
Aerial observer in a survey for dugongs, dolphins, whales, sharks, rays and turtles as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed offshore oil drilling operation. Surveys were conducted in a Partenavia 68B at a ground speed of 100 knots using transect markers attached to the plane. Tasks included daily data collection and transcription.
- 02-05/13: **Conservation International (Indonesia)** **Consultant**
Assessed community interest and options for whale shark eco-tourism as an alternative source of income for local communities in Kaimana, West Papua. Conducted and evaluated focus group discussions and socialization events with community leaders and government representatives. Led an educational excursion to a whale shark tourism operation in Cenderawasih Bay. Wrote progress reports, negotiated a Community Agreement and formulated a Code of Conduct.
- 09-12/10: **RPS Environment (Australia)** **Marine Fauna Observer**
Conducted offshore marine megafauna surveys, including behavioural observations and tracking of humpback whales; daily watches for protected marine wildlife; data entry and reporting; incident prevention & mitigation; biological and geographic data collection; drafting and finalizing start-up and response protocols for marine crew during geotechnical exploration operations in accordance with applicable environmental plans.
- 06-09/10: **Department of Environment and Conservation (Western Australia)** **Benthic Ecologist**
Assisted in the monitoring of coral reef assemblages in the Ningaloo Reef Marine Park and assessments of the impacts of dredging by Chevron’s Gorgon Gas Project in northern WA, Australia. Analysed still underwater imagery and video transects, including data management, identification and documentation of fish and coral diversity.

Community Service & Professional Experience

- 09/17-present: **SharkSearch Indo-Pacific**
Programme partner for SharkSearch Indo-Pacific, a project to document, promote and enhance the social, cultural, economic, biological and ecological values of sharks and rays for Indo-Pacific communities; assist governments, managers and policy makers in reporting to regional and international agencies, and improving the management and conservation of elasmobranch species within their jurisdictions. Co-supervisor of a project on the sharks and rays of Palau.
- 01-02/10: **Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth WA**
Assisted in the establishment of a benthic monitoring laboratory. Set up computer software, formulated Standard Operating Procedures, developed a training module for inter-observer comparability of video assessments, assisted in database development.
- 01-02/08: **James Cook University Townsville, Queensland**
Research assistant in a project on the effects of Marine Protected Areas on spillover effects of various fish species around Great Keppel Island, Great Barrier Reef. Catching, handling, measuring and tagging fish, tissue sample collection, data entry.
- 2007 –2008: **The Minke Whale Project, James Cook University Townsville, Queensland**
Data entry, photo identification, qualitative analysis of passenger questionnaires, data collection in the field (behavioural observations, underwater photography, passenger questionnaires, vessel movement logs, whale sighting sheets, presentations on the biology and behaviour of Minke whales and Code of Practice).
- 2006 – 2008: **ReefHQ Townsville, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)**
Volunteer interpretation, school education, diving, official functions.
- 2006 & 2007: **Student representative, James Cook University**
- 2002 - 2003: **Rotary Exchange student to Australia**

Awards & Certifications

- 2018: **Swiss National Science Foundation** Early Postdoc.Mobility grant (CHF 96'400 p.a.)
- 2014: **Graduate Women of Western Australia** Award for postgraduate research (\$3000)
- 2011-12: **Prime Minister's Australia-Asia Endeavour Award** for postgraduate research (\$63'000)
- 2011-15: **Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) Scholarship** for PhD research (\$26'000 p.a.)
- 2010: **Pilot Rope Ladder with Fall Arrest System Training** (IFAP Fremantle, Western Australia)
- 2010: **OPITO approved offshore TBOSIET** including Helicopter Safety & Escape, Fire fighting, Offshore Facility Abandonment, Sea survival, Smoke evacuation (ERGT)
- 2009: **Thyne Reid ECOcean Scholarship** for Honours research (\$5000)
- 2008: **Academic Medal** for Bachelor Coursework, James Cook University Townsville, QLD.
- 2003, 2008: **PADI** Open Water, Advanced & Rescue Diver

Publications

Jaiteh V, Peatman T, McDonald J, Nicol S and Gilman E (in prep) *A sanctuary for the rejected? Reviewing a decade of bycatch data from a western Pacific tuna longline fishery and potential benefits of large-scale spatial protection.* Target journal: *Frontiers in Marine Science* Special Issue on SDG 14.

- Hari K, **Jaiteh V** and Chin A (under review) *The sharks and rays of Palau: Biological diversity, status, and social and cultural dimensions*. Nature Scientific Reports.
- Davidson L, **Jaiteh V**, Chin A and Jabado R (in prep) Chapter 22: Conservation Biology. In: Jeffrey Carrier, Colin Simpfendorfer, Kara Yopak and Michael Heithaus (eds). *Biology of Sharks and their Relatives*, Third Edition.
- Braccini M, Kangas M, **Jaiteh V**, Wakefield C and Newman S (in prep) *Quantifying the unreported and unaccounted domestic and foreign commercial catch of sharks and rays in Western Australia for improvement of threatened species assessments*. Target journal: *Frontiers in Marine Science*.
- Gardiner-Dedrick A, Kelly E, Hobday A, Wabnitz C, **Jaiteh V**, White T, Arnoldi N, Golbuu Y, Hazen L, Micheli F et al. (in prep) *Species activity spaces and their protection afforded by Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas*. Target journal: *Ecological Applications*.
- Jaiteh V**, Lindfield S, Colin P and Colin L (2020) *Behavioral observations and habitat use of dugongs (Dugong dugon) in the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Koror State, to enhance public awareness and management effectiveness for dugong conservation in Palau*. Final project report for GEF Small Grants Program. Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau.
- Gerhardt K, Diedrich A and **Jaiteh V** (2018) *Social science and its application to the studies of shark biology*. In: Jeffrey Carrier, Michael Heithaus and Colin Simpfendorfer (eds). *Shark Research - Emerging Technologies and Applications for the Field and Laboratory*. CRC Press.
- Loneragan NR, Stacey N, Warren C, Gibson E, Fitriana R, Adhuri D, **Jaiteh VF**, Mustika PLK, Steenbergen DJ and Wiryawan B (2018) *Small-scale fisheries in Indonesia: benefits to households, the roles of women, and opportunities for improving livelihoods*. Prepared for the ACIAR Small Research Activity, Project Number FIS/2014/104.
- Jaiteh V**, Loneragan N and Warren C (2017b) *The end of shark finning? Impacts of declining catches and fin demand on coastal community livelihoods*. *Marine Policy* 82: 224 - 233.
- Jaiteh V**, Hordyk A, Braccini M, Warren C and Loneragan N (2017a) *Shark finning in eastern Indonesia: assessing the sustainability of a data-poor fishery*. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*. doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsw170
- Jaiteh V**, Lindfield S, Mangubhai S, Warren C, Fitzpatrick B and Loneragan N (2016) *Higher abundance of Marine Predators and changes in fishers' behavior following spatial protection within the world's biggest shark fishery*. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2016.00043
- Jaiteh V** and Momigliano P (2015) *New distribution records of the Vulnerable fossil shark Hemipristis elongata from eastern Indonesia call for improved fisheries management*. *Marine Biodiversity Records* 8: e79
- Momigliano P and **Jaiteh V** (2015) *First records of the grey nurse shark Carcharias taurus (Lamniformes: Odontaspidae) from oceanic reefs in the Timor Sea*. *Marine Biodiversity Records* 8: e56
- Momigliano P, **Jaiteh V** and Speed C (2015) *Predators in danger: Shark conservation and management in Australia, New Zealand, and their neighbours*. In: Adam Stow, Gregory Holwell, Norman Maclean (eds). *Austral Ark*. Cambridge University Press.
- Whitcraft S, Hofford A, Hilton P, O'Malley M, **Jaiteh V** and P. Knights. (2014) *Evidence of Declines in Shark Fin Demand, China*. WildAid. San Francisco, CA.
- Jaiteh V**, Allen S, Meeuwig J and Loneragan N (2014) *Combining in-trawl video with observer coverage improves understanding of protected and vulnerable species bycatch in trawl fisheries*. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. Online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/MF13130>

Jaiteh V, Allen S, Meeuwig J and Loneragan N (2013) *Subsurface behavior of bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) interacting with fish trawl nets in northwestern Australia: Implications for bycatch mitigation*. Marine Mammal Science 29(3): E266-E281

Jaiteh V (2009) *An assessment of dolphin behaviour and bycatch mitigation techniques in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, Western Australia*. Honours Thesis, Murdoch University Perth

Conference Presentations

Jaiteh V (2020) A safe haven for untold casualties? Potential sanctuary benefits for bycatch species in a Pacific tuna longline fishery. Online conference for Swiss National Science Foundation fellows, USA, 29 June – 2 July 2020

Jaiteh V, Warren C and Loneragan N (2017) From sink to source: Effects of declining fin demand on shark fishing livelihoods. 10th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Papeete, Tahiti, 2-6 October 2017

Jaiteh V, Warren C and Loneragan N (2017) The end of shark finning? Impacts of declining catches and fin demand on coastal community livelihoods. MARE Conference ‘People and the Sea’, Amsterdam, NL, 5-7 July 2017

Jaiteh V, Lindfield S, Mangubhai S, Warren C, Fitzpatrick B and Loneragan N (2016) More sharks, less fins: Ecological successes and socio-economic challenges of spatial protection within the world’s biggest shark fishery. International Coral Reef Symposium, Honolulu, Hawai’I, July 2016

Jaiteh V, Hordyk A, Braccini M, Warren C and Loneragan N (2015) *What’s the catch? Recent trends in the Eastern Indonesian shark fishery*. Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference, Sydney, Australia, 12-16 October 2015

Jaiteh V, Warren C and Loneragan N (2014) *Sharks, Sails and Smugglers: Fishing for new livelihoods in Eastern Indonesia*. 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress, Merida, Mexico, 21-26 September 2014

Jaiteh V, Warren C and Loneragan N (2014) *Building an understanding of the world’s biggest shark fishery through fishers’ knowledge and participation in scientific data collection*. Sharks International, Durban, South Africa, 2-6 June 2014

Jaiteh V, Warren C and Loneragan N (2012) *Predators as livelihoods: Shark fisheries in Eastern Indonesia*. Australian Society for Fish Biology & Oceania Chondrichthyan Society, Adelaide, Australia, 15 – 18 June 2012

Jaiteh V, Allen S, Meeuwig J, Loneragan N (2011) *Sub-surface behaviour of bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) interacting with fish trawl nets in NW Australia*. Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Jaiteh V, Allen S, Meeuwig J, Loneragan N (2010) *Interactions between dolphins and an Australian demersal scalefish trawl fishery: implications for bycatch mitigation*. European Cetacean Society (ECS) Conference, Stralsund, Germany.

Languages

German/Swiss German: Native speaker

English: Fluent

Italian, French, Indonesian: Good written and spoken command