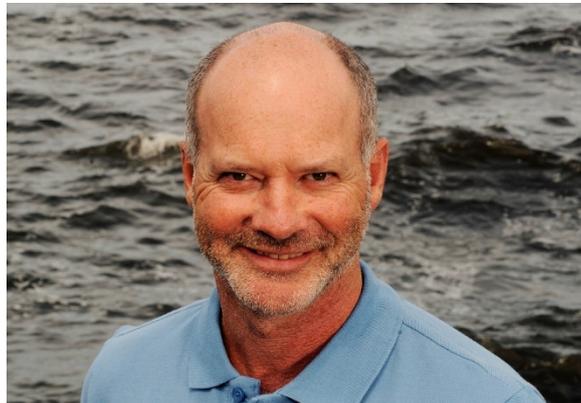

Dr Barry Bruce



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Barry's career has spanned multiple spatial scales in the ocean. Beginning with plankton in the 1980s, he worked for the Australian Antarctic Division publishing on krill physiology and reproduction, followed by a period working on the early life history of southern Australian finfish with CSIRO and the then South Australian Department of Fisheries. This resulted in 12 papers on larval taxonomy and ecology as well as two chapters of 'Larvae of Indo-Pacific shore fishes' (1989) and nine chapters of 'The larvae of temperate Australian Fishes: a laboratory guide for larval fish identification' (1997) both of which are texts that are still used today. Plankton related work has continued with research on the reproductive and larval ecology of seastars and research on the distribution of Southern rock lobster phyllosoma culminating with the development of a dispersal and settlement model to support decision-making by fisheries managers.

In the early 1990s, Barry and his colleagues increased the size of their animals of interest by researching the reproductive biology and captive husbandry of the endangered spotted handfish. Barry subsequently co-authored the recovery plan and several papers on this species. Following on from this grounding in conservation work, Barry has gone on to make an outstanding contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the iconic white shark. This contribution is on-going, with extensive advice provided to national and state governments and other stakeholders that helps guide management. Presently he leads a project using cutting-edge technologies to assess the status of white sharks, developing the first reliable estimate of population size for Australia.

Barry's team was the first to apply satellite tracking technology to white sharks in 2000/2001 and the first to make white shark tracks publically available via the internet. His team was also one of the first to use mobile phone and satellite technologies to receive real-time messages about the movements of acoustic-tagged white sharks around the coast of Australia, a technique that has since become widely used for telemetry of data. Recent results from his team's work has identified two populations of white sharks in Australian waters separated east and west by Bass Strait as well as a higher level of movement and potential for gene flow (or

transient movement of non-breeding sharks) between Australia and New Zealand than previously thought. The profile of his team's work has led to a high media demand for comment on shark issues (with over 150 media interviews in the past five years) and has raised the national awareness of shark research and for white sharks in particular.