

Brianna Elliott

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Research Interests and Focus:

Marine conservation biology, ocean law and policy, ocean diplomacy, international ocean affairs, international fisheries and bycatch management

EDUCATION

- 2019-present**
Durham, NC USA
PhD Candidate, Marine Science and Conservation
Certificate in College Teaching
Founder, Ocean Diplomacy Working Group
Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment/Duke Marine Lab
Dissertation title: “Assessing cetacean bycatch in Indian Ocean Commission (IOTC) tuna fisheries via a multidisciplinary approach”
Advised by: Dr. Andy Read
- May 2017**
Durham, NC USA
Master of Coastal Environmental Management
Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment
Master’s Thesis: Examining the Role of Sound under the Endangered Species Act: A Petition to Designate Critical Habitat for Sperm Whales (*Physeter microcephalus*) in the Gulf of Mexico Based on Its Acoustic Habitat
Advised by: Dr. Andy Read and Dr. Doug Nowacek
- May 2012**
Wilmington, NC USA
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science; Journalism minor
University of North Carolina Wilmington, Honors College
Study Abroad: University of Queensland, Australia (Jan.-June 2011)
Honors Thesis: Honors Thesis: Assessing Impacts of Beach Nourishment on Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) Hatching Success on Bald Head Island, NC

PUBLICATIONS

Elliott, B., Kiszka, J. J., Bonhommeau, S., Shahid, U., Lent, R., Nelson, L., & Read, A. J. (2023). Bycatch in drift gillnet fisheries: A sink for Indian Ocean cetaceans. *Conservation Letters*, e12997.

Elliott B.W., Tarzia, M., Lent R., & Read, A.J., (2023). Cetacean Bycatch Governance in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: Current progress, management gaps, and looking ahead. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 2517.

Fader, J. E., **Elliott, B. W.**, & Read, A. J. (2021). The challenges of managing depredation and bycatch of toothed whales in pelagic longline fisheries: Two US case studies. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8, 123.

Elliott, B. W., Read, A. J., Godley, B. J., Nelms, S. E., & Nowacek, D. P. (2019). Critical information gaps remain in understanding impacts of industrial seismic surveys on marine vertebrates. *Endangered Species Research*, 39, 247-254.

In preparation

Elliott B.W., Read A.J., Roady S., and Lent R. (2024). Trade, tuna, and turtles: policy and economic

trade-offs in managing bycatch via unilateral versus multilateral approaches. Target journal: *Conservation Letters*.

Elliott B.W., Kiszka, J., Johnston, D.W., Tarzia M., Mozzam M., Aisha H., Shahid U., Bonhommeau S., Nelson L, & Read A.J. (2024). Characterizing gillnet fleets using satellite imagery: a case study from Pakistan. In prep: *Fish and Fisheries*.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Talpaert, J., Contini, M., Barde, J., Urbina-Barreto, I., Guilhaumon, F., **Elliott, B.**, Joly, A., Bonhommeau, S. GEOAI for Marine Ecosystem Monitoring: A complete workflow to generate maps from AI model predictions. (2023). Paper presented to FOSS4G meeting.

Elliott, B.W., Kiszka, J., Johnston, D.W., Salahuddin, G., Lent, R., Khan, M., Shahid, U., Bonhommeau, S., Larsen, G., Talpaert, J., Contini, M., Lavelle, A., Read, A.J. (2023). A low-cost approach to better understanding data-poor fisheries. Presentation to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.

Elliott, B.W. and Read, A. J. (2023). Unilateral and multilateral approaches to cetacean bycatch management: risk and potential under the U.S. Marine Mammal Import Provisions Rule for IOTC Members. Presentation to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.

Elliott, B.W., Kiszka, J., Johnston, D.W., Salahuddin, G., Lent, R., Khan, M., Shahid, U., Bonhommeau, B., Read, A.J. (2022). Update on characterizing the Pakistani tuna gillnet fleet through satellite imagery: preliminary summary of results and next steps. IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-21. Presentation to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics meeting.

Elliott B.W. (2022). Cetacean bycatch management in regional fisheries management organizations: policy progress, gaps, and looking ahead. Research talk presented at 2022 Society for Marine Mammalogy meeting.

Elliott B.W. (2022). Update on leveraging very high resolution satellite imagery to characterize the Pakistani driftnet fleet. Research talk presented at 2022 IOTC bycatch mitigation workshop.

Elliott B.W. (2021). A novel methodology to characterize the tuna drift gillnet fleet and quantify small cetacean bycatch in Pakistani waters. Research talk presented at the 2021 joint Indian Ocean Tuna Commission-International Whaling Commission meeting.

Elliott B.W. (2021). A novel methodology to characterize the tuna drift gillnet fleet and quantify small cetacean bycatch in Pakistani waters. Research talk presented at the 2021 International Whaling Commission Science Committee meeting.

Elliott B.W. (2020). A review of regional fisheries management organizations efforts to address cetacean bycatch: report to the International Whaling Commission. Report orally presented at 2020 International Whaling Commission Science Committee meeting.

Elliott B.W. and Nowlin M. (2017). Evaluating the Effectiveness of Incidental Take Permit No.

16230 in Reducing Observed Sea Turtle Take in the Southern Flounder Commercial Gillnet Fishery in North Carolina. Poster presented at the 2017 International Sea Turtle Symposium.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023** **Duke University Office of Global Affairs Research Award**
Funding to launch the “Ocean Diplomacy Working Group” at Duke (\$1000)
- 2022, 2023** **Duke University Office of Global Affairs Research Award**
Funding to supplement dissertation research in La Réunion (\$1000)
- 2022** **National Geographic Explorers Grant**
Grant to assist with satellite analysis and fishermen surveys to better understand fisheries bycatch in Pakistan (\$15000)
- 2022** **Trent Memorial Endowment Fund**
Funding to support research on analyzing the efficacy of the U.S. Import Provisions Rule to reduce marine mammal bycatch in the Indian ocean (\$7500)
- 2021** **World Wildlife Fund, Conservation Impact Grant**
Grant to assist with satellite analysis on gillnet fisheries in Pakistan (25000 AUD)
- 2021** **Chateaubriand STEM Fellowship**
Funding to spend up to nine months conducting research with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on Réunion Island (15000 euros)
- 2021, 2022** **Duke University Center for International and Global Studies**
Grant to purchase satellite imagery for research on gillnet fishing in the Indian Ocean (\$2300 total)
- 2020** **Duke University Bass Instructor of Record (*declined)**
Funding to develop and teach my own undergraduate class, currently planned as "International Living Marine Resource Policy" (\$12375)
- 2020** **Duke Graduate Training Research Enhancement Grant**
Summer internship with U.S. State Department on a project titled, “Cetacean bycatch review in regional fisheries management organizations in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State” (\$9389)
- 2019** **Duke University Bass Connections Grant**
“Reducing Global Marine Mammal Bycatch through Development of Model Marine Mammal Legislation” (\$25392)
- 2018** **John A. Knauss NOAA Marine Policy Fellowship**
Placed with U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation (\$61500)
- 2016** **Edna Bailey Sussman Fund**
Awarded to support policy research on protected species management with the state of Hawaii (\$6000)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marine Policy Experience

Feb.-June 2021

**National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs
and Seafood Inspection**

Foreign Affairs Specialist

Helped implement the Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions Rule. Assisted with developing policy to review Comparability Finding applications for nations exporting seafood to the U.S.; led presentations and technical consultations with dozens of nations about the Import Provisions; assisted with bycatch and database analyses. Also served as portfolio lead on the Pelly Amendment.

***Mar. 2018-June
2019***

Washington,
D.C., USA

U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation

*NOAA Knauss Marine Policy Fellow (March 2018-March 2019) and Foreign Affairs
Officer (on contract with Kenjya-Trusant Group) (April 2019-June 2019)*

Assisted with writing position papers and representing the U.S. at bilateral and multilateral fora on fisheries-focused issues such as: ensuring compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions; co-lead coordination of the Our Ocean conferences; co-lead U.S.-China fisheries portfolio; and assist with U.S. policy formulation for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization.

***July 2017-Mar.
2018***

Washington,
D.C., USA

**National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources
(on contract with Ocean Associates)**

*Senior Analyst, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal
Protection Act*

Analyzed applications for Incidental Take Authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, including reviewing applications, researching and writing Federal Register proposed and final rules, reviewing and responding to public comments on regulatory actions, and writing NEPA documents.

May-Aug. 2016

Honolulu, HI
USA

State of Hawaii

Graduate Protected Species Policy Intern

Advanced States' efforts on protected species: (1) Wrote report on incorporating human social and cultural factors into Hawaiian monk seal management and (2) Researched and wrote Hawaii's first draft management plan for green sea turtles.

Science Communications Experience

***April 2014-Aug.
2015***

Washington, D.C.
USA

Oceana

Editor

Managed online content by working with scientists and policy specialists to communicate on three major campaigns: sustainable fisheries, climate change, and protected species. Wrote daily articles on new studies, rulemaking, and policy.

Jan-Nov. 2013
New York, NY

National Audubon Society
Science Reporter

Contributed to Audubon's editorial goals by translating complex studies on climate and ornithological subjects into blog posts and short magazine articles.

Field Experience

April-July 2013
Naples, FL USA

Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Sea Turtle Field Technician

Supported long-withstanding turtle monitoring program by collecting biometric data on nesting sea turtles at night via UTV; tagged turtles; assisted with hatchings.

May-October 2012
Wilmington, NC
USA

Audubon North Carolina
Biological Technician

Advanced Audubon's shorebird conservation efforts by collecting data on shorebird nesting colonies, assisting with bird banding, and conducting public outreach.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023 **Nicholas School Dean's Award for Outstanding Student Manuscript**
Awarded best student manuscript in the Marine Science and Conservation Division for, "Cetacean Bycatch Governance in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: Current progress, management gaps, and looking ahead."

2017 **Duke Law Clinic Environmental Advocacy Award**
Awarded for 350 hours of pro-bono legal research on a sea turtle bycatch issue.

2017 **Forever Duke Award**
One of 18 graduate students campus-wide to receive award for service.

2017 **Best Student Poster, International Sea Turtle Society**
Awarded for poster, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Incidental Take Permit No. 16230 in Reducing Observed Sea Turtle Take in the Southern Flounder Commercial Gillnet Fishery in North Carolina."

2016 **Duke Nicholas School of the Environment Alumni Council Fellowship**
Established mentoring program for master's students with alumni in the Nicholas School.

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2023 **Marine Fisheries Policy**
Teaching Assistant
Lectures led: "International Fisheries Governance: Challenges and Opportunities with Bycatch"

Spring 2022 **Coastal Resilience**
Teaching Assistant

Summer 2021

Humans and Changing Oceans

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2020

Duke Bass Connections course, “Reducing Global Marine Mammal Bycatch through Development of Model Marine Mammal Legislation”

Co-leader/instructor

Lectures led include:

1. *“A multilateral approach to managing bycatch Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)”*
2. *“An introduction to the MMPA Import Provisions Rule”*
3. *“A history of key bycatch agreements and negotiations”*
4. *“Small-scale fisheries and bycatch: the role of the Import Rule?”*

Fall 2019, 2021

Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy, Duke University

Teaching Assistant

Lectures led include:

1. *“Noisy business: An overview of the permitting process in the U.S. for regulating marine mammals in seismic surveys”*
2. *“A tour through global agreements for addressing bycatch”*

Spring 2016

Environmental Communication, Duke University

Teaching Assistant

January 2020-present

Mentor to several Duke master’s students conducting marine mammal science and policy research under Dr. Andy Read

- Summer 2023: Image annotation analysis (Aileen Lavelle)

- Fall 2021-Spring 2023: US MMPA stock assessment review (Rachel Hilt)

- Spring 2020-2021: US MMPA stock assessment review (Taylor Stoni, Kim Corcoran)

- Fall 2020: Gulf of Mexico marine mammal depredation research (Corie Grewal)

GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICE AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

- **Founder/director**, Ocean Diplomacy Working Group at Duke University (2023)
- **Student coordinator**, PhD to master’s student connection program, 2022-2023
- **Grant application reviewer**, Duke University Graduate Student Training and Enhancement Grants, March 2022
- **Graduate student representative**, Marine Science and Conservation division, June 2021-2022
- **Seminar series coordinator**, Marine Science and Conservation division, June 2020-2021
- **Fellowship application reviewer**, Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, May 2020
- **Policy coordinator**, Ocean and Policy Working Ground, 2016-2017
- **Student blogger**, Nicholas School of the Environment, 2015-2017

- **Manuscript referee (2020-present)**: iScience, Endangered Species Research, Aquatic Conservation

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Jan. 2020-Mar. 2020
Durham, NC, USA

Animal Protection Society of Durham
Dog Care Volunteer

Dec. 2008-May 2009
Wilmington, NC, USA

Fort Fisher Aquarium
Education Volunteer

Summers 2005-2008
Bald Head Island, NC

Bald Head Island Conservancy
Education and Sea Turtle Volunteer

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETAL MEMBERSHIP

- Society for Marine Mammalogy, January 2017-present
- Society for Conservation Biology, January 2017-present
- International Sea Turtle Society, October 2015-present

SKILLS

- *Languages:* English (native), French (intermediate/B2), Indonesian (beginner)
- *U.S. environmental law and policy:* Advanced literacy, understanding, and application of key environmental statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and Clean Water Act;
- *International environmental policy:* Served on U.S. delegations to the U.S.-China fisheries bilateral meeting in Chengdu, China (June 2018), the annual meeting Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) in San Diego, California (August 2018), the 2018 Our Ocean conference in Bali, Indonesia (October 2018), the 57th meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, in Dubrovnik, Croatia (November 2018), the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks in Monaco (December 2018), and the Seventh Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization in The Hague, Netherlands (January 2019); 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, in Balaclava, Mauritius (May 2023);
- *Computer:* R, ArcGIS, QGIS, Wordpress, MATLAB, Drupal, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite;
- *Interpersonal:* Excellent public speaking, organizational, interpersonal and multitasking skills; highly adaptable to working in multiple work environments, cultures, and paces;
- *Certifications:* PADI Open Water Diver, Wilderness First Aid, CPR and AED;