



Sharks and Skates: Ecology, Distribution and Conservation

Guest Editor:

**Dr. Martina Francesca
Marongiu**

Dipartimento di Scienze della
Vita e dell'Ambiente, University of
Cagliari, Via T. Fiorelli 1, 09126
Cagliari, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Chondrichthyans (sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras) represent one of the oldest and most ecologically various vertebrate lineages. This group of predators occupy the top of aquatic food webs and play an important functional role in the control of coastal and oceanic ecosystem structure and function. However, nowadays, overfishing and habitat degradation are altering their populations leading to a worrisome decline of these species worldwide because of their low resilience. Moreover, data on the stock status of this important resource remain still poor or non-existent, which is due to a problematic taxonomy (e.g., misidentification issues).

In this Special Issue, we invite contributions that investigate the life histories of Chondrichthyans (e.g., reproduction, age and growth), trophic ecology, genetic information and updated data on their distribution in order to collect information that is helpful to develop conservation plans for these marine predators.

Topics may include, but are not limited to, species inhabiting coastal waters, transitional waters (e.g., freshwaters), oceans, deep seas, pelagic and bottom environments.





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Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Curtin University Sustainable Policy (CUSP) Institute, Curtin University, Kent St., Bentley, Western Australia 6102, Australia
2. Former Foundation Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Queensland and Foundation Director, Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Animals Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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