

ALEXANDER KEITH MORISON (BSc Hons)



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Professional skills

A broad but detailed knowledge of fisheries and aquatic sciences:

- Over a 30+ year career I have developed a detailed knowledge of the science behind a wide diversity of fisheries and aquatic science issues. I have experience with invertebrate, chondrichthyan and teleost fisheries. These include commercial and recreational fisheries in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats and fisheries operating in tropical, temperate and polar environments.
- Assessment of the sustainability of fisheries is an area of expertise that includes the assessment of a diverse range of fisheries including against the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) standard for sustainability. I am qualified as a Team Leader for MSC assessments and have been involved in assessments of 16 fisheries.
- Projects undertaken have included age estimation and growth, traditional stock assessment, stock enhancement, habitat requirements, impacts of exotic species, ecological risk assessments, development of harvest strategies, adaptation to climate change, and reviews of scientific programs.

Strong facilitation skills:

- These have been developed over many years as chair of numerous scientific groups at state, national and international levels.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills:

- I have strong verbal communication skills demonstrated through numerous talks at international and national scientific conferences as well as many oral presentations at meetings with political, scientific and community representatives, including being a Keynote Speaker at the 3rd International Symposium on Otolith Research and Application, Townsville, July 2004.
- I have a proven track record of strong engagement with stakeholders and an ability to develop a shared vision of cost-effective projects that has resulted in the winning of competitive bids for research funds.

Excellent writing skills:

- My written communication skills are demonstrated through a record of over 130 scientific papers and other publications.

Strong skills in the review and synthesis of science:

- My work as a consultant has included specific requests for the review and synthesis of scientific knowledge to inform agencies.
- Reporting the outcomes of fisheries assessment groups necessitates an ability to synthesise messages from technical presentations and convey them to managers and other stakeholders.

Professional experience

Consultant, Morison Aquatic Sciences***Aug 2009 - Present***

I provide consulting services to state and national governments, companies and non-government organisations on fisheries and aquatic science issues including facilitation of workshops, assessment of stock status, reviews of publications, ecological risk assessment, assessment of risk to conservation values, assessment of vulnerability to climate change and assessment against the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) standard for fisheries sustainability.

Current and recent Positions:

- Scientific Member, South East Management Advisory Committee (for Commonwealth Trawl Sector, Gillnet Hook and Trap Sectors, Small Pelagic Fishery and Southern Squid Jig Fishery) Australian Fisheries Management Authority (since 2010).
- Chair, Ecologically Related Species Working Group for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (since 2011).
- Scientific Member, South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery, Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (since 2013).
- Chair, South East Fisheries Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (since 2016).
- Chair, Shark Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (since 2016).
- Chair, Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (since 2016).
- Chair, Slope Fisheries Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (2005-2015).
- Chair, Shelf Fisheries Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (2013-2015).
- Chair, South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery, Resource Assessment Group: Australian Fisheries Management Authority (2010 -2013).
- Adjunct Principal Research Fellow, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, James Cook University (2009-2013).

Recent projects:

- MSC pre-assessments, assessments or surveillance audits as Principal 1 expert, Principle 2 expert, or Lead Assessor for a range of fisheries (see below).

- Ecological Risk Assessment of the (Queensland) East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) - workshop facilitation and report co-author.
- Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Options for the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery for the GBRMPA - information review, workshop participation, report co-author.
- Facilitator for an Oceania Regional Workshop on requirements for CITES listed species, especially sharks and rays.
- Commonwealth Fishery Bycatch Policy and Harvest Strategy Policy Reviews – stakeholder workshop facilitation for the Australian Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.
- Assessment of risks that commercial fishing methods may pose to conservation values identified in the Areas for Further Assessment of the East Marine Region for the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts – report co-author.
- Review of the “Biology and stock status of demersal scalefish indicator species in the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion” for the Western Australian Department of Fisheries – report author.

MSC Fishery Assessments:

- Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Mackerel Icefish: Reassessments and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Patagonian toothfish: First assessment, reassessment and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- Lakes and Coorong Fishery (South Australia): Reassessments and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- Macquarie Island Patagonian toothfish fishery: First assessment, reassessment and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- Kyoto Danish Seine Fishery: Reassessment (Principle 1).
- Western Rock Lobster Fishery: Surveillance audits and reassessment. (Principle 1)
- PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seine fishery (skipjack tuna): Surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seine fishery (yellowfin tuna): Expedited assessment (Principle 1).
- Northeastern Tropical Pacific purse seine yellowfin & skipjack tuna: first assessment (Principle 2).
- Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna: first assessment (Team leader, Principle 1 and Principle 2).
- Peel-Harvey Inlet, blue swimmer crab and sea mullet fisheries (Principle 1).
- Western Australia deep sea crab fishery (Principle 1).
- Australian pearl oyster fishery (Principle 1).
- Pre-assessments of three other fisheries (confidential).

Achievements:

- Successfully established my consultancy business, keeping existing positions and attracting a range of new clients.

**Senior Scientist, Principal Scientist,
Acting Programme Leader,
Fisheries and Marine Sciences Programme, Bureau of Rural Sciences,
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Jan 2007 – Jul 2009

Responsibilities:

- Provided authoritative scientific advice to senior staff in the Australian Government on demersal fishery resources in the Australian Fishing Zone and on the high seas.
- Co-authored Fishery Status Reports on fisheries managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.
- Chaired one of four fishery assessment groups for the Australian South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery, and was the scientific member on three other assessment groups. Other roles included chair of the Steering Committee overseeing a Habitat Mapping project for the Great Australian Bight.
- Represented Australia at the Science Working Group of the developing South Pacific Regional Management Organisation (SPRFMO).
- Represented the Australian Government at FAO meeting on destructive fishing practices in Rome.
- Supervised group of over 20 scientific staff and managed programme budgets and other administrative tasks.

Achievements:

- Was invited to chair the Jack Mackerel sub-group for the SPRFMO and to be a scientific rapporteur for technical workshops of this group.

**Statewide Leader, Marine Fisheries Research
Department of Primary Industries, Victoria**

**October 2003 to
December 2006**

Responsibilities:

- One of two senior research positions at Queenscliff reporting to the Research Director, Marine and Freshwater Systems Platform.
- Responsible for all research activities undertaken by the Platform on marine fisheries for Fisheries Victoria and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.
- Chaired assessment workshops for abalone, rock lobster and bay and inlet fisheries.
- Coordinated the provision of high level scientific advice on the status of fisheries and the management implications of for Fisheries Victoria.
- Represented the Victorian Government at national scientific fora.
- Prepared summaries of the status of Victoria's fisheries for the Victorian Fisheries Co-management Council.
- Responsible for over 30 staff including senior fisheries scientists for each of the main fisheries including the budgetary and other administrative functions of this group.

Achievements:

- Invited to chair the Slope Fisheries Resources Assessment Group for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. This group is responsible for the planning, conduct and reporting of fisheries assessments for some of the key species, such as blue grenadier, blue and spotted warehou, and pink ling.
- Invited to be a keynote speaker at the Third International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research & Application, held in Townsville in July 2004.
- Continued to attract external funding through competitive application processes.

***Program Leader, Bay & Coastal Fisheries
Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute
(MAFRI), Queenscliff Victoria***

***June 1999 to
October 2003***

Responsibilities:

- One of five program leader positions at MAFRI and responsible for the conduct and management of research projects on fisheries under Victorian Government jurisdiction including abalone, southern rock lobster, bay and inlet fisheries, and recreational fisheries.
- Chaired assessment workshops for abalone, rock lobster and bay and inlet fisheries.
- Prepared summaries the status of Victoria's fisheries for the Victorian Fisheries Co-management Council.
- Represented the Victorian Government at national scientific fora.
- Budgetary and other administrative responsibilities for staff.

Achievements:

- Attracted external funding for new projects through competitive application processes.

Leader, Fisheries Services Section

***December 1997 to
June 1999***

Responsibilities:

- An expansion of my role with the Central Ageing Facility to include supervision of the Catch and Effort Unit at MAFRI.

Achievements:

- Overseeing the development of new reporting forms for commercial fishers following the implementation of a new Fisheries Act.

Manager, Central Ageing Facility

***June 1991 to
December 1997***

Responsibilities:

- The establishment and management of a new national fee-for-service facility for the provision of fish age estimation services.
- The development, evaluation and application of ageing methods on a range of teleosts and elasmobranchs, development of otolith sampling plans, supervision of scientific observers, and the collation and analysis of data for stock assessment groups.
- Manage the implementation and reporting of a range of fisheries projects to external clients.

Achievements:

- Successfully establish a new fee-for-service technical laboratory and attract sufficient clients to make it self-supporting.
- Recognition at national and international levels for quality and innovation in its field.
- Recognised at a state level through being listed as one of 3 finalists in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment's McAlpine Award for Scientific Excellence.
- Recognised at a national and international levels through requests for the provision of fish ageing services, expert advice and training.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with planning, implementation and reporting on a broad range of freshwater fisheries projects including: The assessment of the impact of European carp on freshwater fish and habitats; Assessment of the distribution and conservation status of native fish; Determining the age and growth of native fish species; Development of methods to assess the habitat requirements of native fish; Assessment of the fishery for freshwater crayfish; Evaluation of re-stocking programs for native fish; and Evaluation of environmental flows for inland rivers.

Achievements:

- Part of the team that identified the impact of carp on Australian freshwater systems.
- Part of the team that demonstrated the influence of saline groundwater on the habitat in inland rivers.
- Made a personal contribution on the management of introduced species for the development of a Native Fish Management Plan for the Murray-Darling Basin.
- Contributed to the development of a framework for the evaluation of native fish stocking programs.

Papers, reports and presentations

Publications include 20 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals (8 as senior author), 8 book chapters, and over 100 project reports, technical reports, client reports and papers in workshop and conference proceedings.

A full list of publications and presentations is available from my website (www.morisonaqsci.com.au).