

1 – Ocean Predators: Setting the Scene

An Introduction to Ocean Predators & why they are so important –Rory Crawford (RSPB/BirdLife International Marine Programme)

Talk summary: Albatrosses are the biggest flying birds in the world, conducting astounding circumpolar migrations and the inspiration for myths, poems and songs. However, they are among the most threatened groups of birds in the world – find out why these birds are amazing and what is being done to prevent their extinction.

Ocean Predator Research – Past, present and future – Professor David Sims (Marine Biological Association)

What Ocean Predators mean to me – Alosha Samara Arachchi (Young Marine Biologist member – The Marine Biological Association UK, Ambassador in Marine Conservation Network – Santa Barbara California, Global Youth Shark Ambassador- El Porto Shark – Los Angeles, International Youth Ambassador in School Broadcasting Network Melbourne – Victoria Australia)

Talk summary: Every animal in the ocean except phytoplankton is an ocean predator. Each and every one controlling the Marine ecosystem.

2: Ocean Predators: Socialising & Parenting

The secret lives of sperm whales – Dr Asha de Vos (Founder and Executive Director, Oceanswell, Sri Lanka)

Talk summary: Sperm whales are a lot like us humans. Mothers are incredibly important and they love being surrounded by family. Come join me and explore the secret world of these giants and why we need to protect them.

Identifying pupping grounds for tiger sharks – Matthew Smukall (President of Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation, Save Our Seas Foundation Partner)

Talk summary: Tiger sharks are known to travel thousands of miles in a year and were once thought to be nomads of the ocean. Recent research is showing their affinity for particular locations, and our data suggests pupping may be a major driver of these movements.

From the market to the sea – Greg Nowell (Founder of Sharklab-Malta, Member of the European Elasmobranch Society)

Talk summary: Egg laying sharks landed in Malta became the focus of a remarkable story which has inspired others to follow the lead to make a difference and put back into the seas and oceans, new life from death.



The Social Ecology of Sharks –Dr David Jacoby (Lancaster University (Lecturer) and Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London (Honorary Research Associate))

Talk summary: This talk will provide an introduction to sharks as social animals, not the mindless predators they are often portrayed as. But why are so many species social, how do we know and why is this important? All good questions. I will discuss the cutting-edge scientific developments that are helping us to begin to address these questions.

3: Ocean Predators: Lost and Found

Prying Into The Secret Life Of The World’s Second Biggest Shark! – Dr Lucy Hawkes (University of Exeter)

Talk summary: Over three years in the Western Isles of Scotland, researchers attached specially made cameras to basking sharks, the second largest fish in the world, to see whether they could prove if Scotland is really the place that they breed- a total mystery that had never been solved! Join this talk to see into the private lives of these amazing animals and learn what we discovered along the way.

What predator loss means for ecosystem biodiversity & function- Cher Chow (Centre for Biological Diversity, University of St Andrews)

Talk summary: When we think about the reasons to conserve ocean predators, a major factor lies in the role they play within their ecosystems. We can understand these roles better from the perspective of how predators affect and perform different “jobs” or functions in ecosystems. New ways of measuring biodiversity according to animals’ roles help us understand just how unique and irreplaceable predators are, and what that means if we lose them.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Bizarre Chondrichthyans – Jasmin Graham (Minorities in Shark Sciences, Mote Marine Laboratory)

Talk summary: I'll be talking about my research tracking the movements of the critically endangered smalltooth sawfish. I'll also talk a little bit about my journey to shark science.

Lost Sharks – Marc Dando (Publisher (Wild Nature Press/Princeton University Press), Patron of the Shark Trust) & **Dr David Ebert** (Program Director, Pacific Shark Research Center / Moss Landing Marine Laboratories)

4: Marine biology Careers Panel

‘My Own Octopus Teacher’ by Rehan Somaweera (Year 5 student at Woodland Primary School in Perth, Australia)

Video summary: In reef systems, some animals follow other animals to get foraging benefits. Some of these relationships are called ‘nuclear ‘follower foraging’. Over a period of one year, we studied and learnt how and why a particular fish species follow octopi in cold-water reefs in our hometown in Perth



5: Ocean Predators and Us

Public Perception of Sharks– Melissa Cristina Marquez (PhD candidate, Curtin University)

Talk summary: The media plays a vital role in informing the public about both news and phenomena, particularly in areas where audiences do not possess any pertinent knowledge or experiences. Melissa will discuss media portrayal of sharks, the effects of media on the public perception of sharks, and what we can all do about it.

Ocean Predators through the lens – Richard Barnden (Unique Ocean Expeditions)

Talk summary: In Palau there are strict conservation practices e.g. closed seasons and shark sanctuary. This has enabled Richard to photograph unique shark behaviour that is only possible in their natural environments, including spawning aggregations and sharks at cleaning stations.

The role of science in elasmobranch Conservation – Dr Daniel Fernando (Co-founder and director of the fisheries and policy programme at Blue Resources Trust)

Talk summary: How many dead sharks and rays does one have to count to help conserve them? Surveying Sri Lankan fish markets to gain insights into these threatened fish and effectively using that knowledge to transition fisheries management to prevent overexploitation

7: Global Ocean Predator Conservation

Protecting Sharks in Cameroon waters – Lionel Yamb (Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD))

Talk summary: My talk will focus on the threats to Sharks in Cameroon and the efforts to protect these species in the local area. I will emphasize on why it is important to gather insights on Sharks in Cameroon and how this information could be used later to improve the conservation status of these species in the country.

Whale Sharks & Shipping – Freya Wormersley (Marine Biological Association, University of Southampton, Global Shark Movement Project)

Talk summary: Whale sharks, the largest fish in the sea, have been experiencing population declines as a result of human activities, and today collisions with large ships are viewed as a highly concerning threat. Whale sharks spend large portions of their time feeding in surface waters and juveniles aggregate in coastal regions where they may be vulnerable to fatal collisions. My talk explores whale shark and shipping movements to quantify overlap and collision risk experienced by this Endangered species for the first time.

Shark fisheries and conservation – Dr Catherine Macdonald

Talk summary: This talk will offer a quick primer on different kinds of shark fisheries and the conservation challenges they can create.

The Charismatic Bengal Rhinos – a social and ecological gaze – Alifa Bintha Haque (DPhil researcher, Nature-based Solutions Initiative, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford)



Talk summary: I will talk about our three years long, coast-wide research results on rhino rays and sawfish. We have taken a mixed-method approach and collaborated with locals ad local fishers, traders to unveil the fisheries, habitat, species diversity, trade and possible intervention needed.

