



PhD project opportunity in fisheries conservation at Monash University, Australia

As part of a research program led by [Associate Professor Richard Reina](#) on the impacts of fisheries on shark and ray species, there is a PhD position available for an outstanding student. This research centres on a project funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation titled 'Improving Outcomes of Fisher Interactions with Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras.' The work primarily focuses on understanding the impacts of recreational fishing on native species and developing and implementing methods to cause behavioural change of fishers in their interactions with captured sharks, rays and chimaeras in the State of Victoria.

The research is based in the [School of Biological Sciences](#) at [Monash University](#) in Melbourne, Australia, with fieldwork to be undertaken throughout Victoria. Monash University is one of Australia's largest and most research-intensive universities, with approximately 75,000 students enrolled, including about 5,000 enrolled in research PhDs. A PhD by research in Australia is expected to be completed in a maximum of four years, with minor coursework requirements.

The PhD project is available immediately and will form part of a collaboration on this project, with [Dr Carly Cook](#) and [Dr Jessica Walsh](#) from Monash University, the Victorian Fisheries Authority, Victorian Recreational Fishers Peak Body and Flinders University.

Key aspects of the project will be:

- To determine priority species for management of impacted species in the recreational fisheries context
- To design and undertake surveys to understand fisher knowledge and practices in capturing and releasing sharks and rays
- To develop and implement a range of strategies to educate fishers about how to minimise the impacts on vulnerable species
- Evaluate the effectiveness of education programs on changing attitudes and behaviours of recreational fishers

How to apply:

Interested PhD applicants will need experience in conservation biology, although not necessarily in fisheries. It will be greatly advantageous to have experience in conducting human surveys and interviews and strong quantitative skills are essential. [To apply](#) for the PhD at Monash you will need to have an Honours or Masters degree with a minimum one year research component. A track record of scientific publication is a major advantage in obtaining a scholarship. English language requirements apply for international students. While there are several scholarship rounds each year, applications can be made at any time with support from the proposed supervisor.

To express interest in applying, please email richard.reina@monash.edu You will need to provide a full CV, a statement of research interest, a copy of your academic transcript and your English language test scores if your language of instruction was not English. In your statement of research interest you will need to explain how your background makes you suitable to undertake the project and what you know about the topic.

The deadline for expressions of interest is August 9th, 2019.

For an overview of some of this research visit richardreina.com