

# Guido Leurs

Elasmobranch Conservation Ecology

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## About me



My work with elasmobranchs (i.e. sharks and rays) started off as passion when I was young. Inspired by documentary movies, books and papers I set out to discover what intrigued me about this species group. At this stage I am interested in the functional roles that these animals play in a variety of ecosystems, and how anthropogenic stressors might affect them. In addition, I also enjoy communicating about my projects!

## Skills

### Informatics & Statistics

R environment	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Statistical models	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Python	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Matlab	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
ESRI ArcGIS	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
QGIS	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Adobe Photoshop	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Adobe Illustrator	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Adobe InDesign	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Adobe Premiere	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Adobe After Effects	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
MS Word	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
MS Excel	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
MS Powerpoint	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
CMS	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
HTML	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
CSS	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
PHP	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

### Various

Boat experience	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Diving	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Presenting	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Social Media (science comm.)	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

### Languages

Dutch	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
English	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
German	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## Research experience

Functional role of elasmobranchs in intertidal ecosystems. University of Groningen (NL & Guinea-Bissau)	2018 - Present
Spatial habitat use of silky sharks on the Saba Bank. Saba Bank Management Unit & Oceaware (Saba)	2018 - Present
Presence of large predatory sharks in the Mediterranean. The Oceaware Project (NL)	2012 - Present
Bycatch of nurse sharks in the lobster fishery of the Saba Bank. Oceaware Consultancy (Saba)	2018
Spatiotemporal distribution of Caribbean reef sharks and nurse sharks around Saba. Wageningen Marine Research (NL & Dutch Caribbean)	2015 - 2016
Priorities for elasmobranch conservation in the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania. World Wildlife Fund & University of Groningen (NL & MR)	2016
Laserphotogrammetry and identification of great hammerhead sharks in Bimini. Freelance, collaboration with O'Seas Conservation Fdn. (BS)	2015
Effect of sand nourishment on macrobenthic communities and waders on the Oesterdam. Wageningen Marine Research (NL)	2014
Laserphotogrammetry and growth of free-ranging white sharks in Gansbaai. Stellenbosch University & Shark Diving Unlimited (SA)	2013
Invasive species in Lake Grevelingen, Eastern Scheldt and Schleswig-Holstein. GiMaRIS (NL)	2012 - 2013
Shark-Human interactions in the waters of Grand Cay (field assistant). Shark School (BS)	2012

## Scientific output & grants

### Scientific Publications

Leurs, G., Boman, E., & Walker, P. (2018). Range extension of the lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*) within the Dutch Caribbean: First records of young individuals in the waters of Sint Eustatius. *Science Matters*, 1-6.

O'Connell, C. P., & Leurs, G. (2016). A minimally invasive technique to assess several life-history characteristics of the endangered great hammerhead shark *Sphyrna mokarran*. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 88(3), 1257-1264.

Leurs, G., O'Connell, C. P., Andreotti, S., Rutzen, M., & Vonk Noordegraaf, H. (2015). Risks and advantages of using surface laser photogrammetry on free-ranging marine organisms: a case study on white sharks *Carcharodon carcharias*. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 86(6), 1713-1728.

## Conference Presentations

Trophic niche overlap of elasmobranchs and migratory waders in a tropical intertidal ecosystem. Netherlands Ecological Research Network, Lunteren (NL)	2019
Spatiotemporal distribution of two reef-associated shark species: an integrative approach. Sharks International, Joao Pessoa (BR)	2018
Elasmobranchs of the Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania): Conservation and Ecological Importance. Sharks International, Joao Pessoa (BR)	2018
Elasmobranchs of the Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania): Conservation and Ecological Importance. 21st Annual Meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association, Amsterdam (NL)	2017
Priorities for elasmobranch conservation in the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania. Globalization of Fisheries: the prevalence, actors, ecological impact and regulation of illegal fishing. Texel (NL)	2017
Spatiotemporal distribution of Caribbean reef sharks and nurse sharks around Saba. 20th Annual Meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association. Bristol (UK)	2016

## Grants

WWF-NL InnoFonds	€10,000
Shark Conservation Fund,	\$24,100

## Outreach

- Sense of Smell of Sharks (January 2017).  
Radio 1 Belgium, Interview: Annemie Peeters.
- Shark research in the Bahamas (August 2016).  
Vroege Vogels (Radio 1), Interview: Menno Bentveld.
- Hunting the Hammerhead (August 2016).  
National Geographic Channel & Smithsonian Channel,  
Production: Earth-Touch.
- Longevity of Greenland Sharks (August 2016).  
L1 Radio, Interview: Tim op het Broek.
- Renault Life episode about swimming with sharks (June 2016).  
Renault Nederland, Interview: Vincent Croiset.
- A lifelong fascination for sharks (March 2016).  
L1 Avondgasten, Interview: Frans Pollux & Kirsten Paulus.
- What to do when a shark attacks (January 2014).  
Radio 2, Interview: Gijs Stavermans.

## Various Interviews & Publications

Quest, KIJK Magazine, Resource Wageningen, BioNieuws, Dagblad De Limburger, HAS Beats.

## Featured Photography (high-impact media)

National Geographic, World Wildlife Fund, Trouw, Duiken.

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## Education & courses

### Education

MSc. Biology, specialization Marine Biology Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen	2014 - 2016
BSc. Applied Biology, specialization Ecology University of Applied Sciences HAS Hogeschool, Den Bosch	2010 - 2014
Higher General Secondary Education, Health & Science + Health & Technology Valuascollege, Venlo	2004 - 2010

### Courses

PADI Divemaster Saba Conservation Foundation, Saba	2018
Laboratory Animal Science - Fish (Article 9) Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen	2017
Shark-Human Interaction I Sharkschool, Grand Cay, Bahamas	2012
PADI Rescue Diver FranksDives, Tilburg	2012
PADI Advanced Open Water Diver FranksDives, Tilburg	2012
Emergency First Response (1 + 2) FranksDives, Tilburg	2012
PADI Enriched Air Diver (NITROX) FranksDives, Tilburg	2012
Spanish (beginner) NHA Opleidingen	2011
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Private Course	2011
PADI Open Water Diver DiveSenses, Breda	2011

## Secondary activities

Founder The Oceaware Project	2012 - Present
Member Dutch Elasmobranch Association	2015 - Present
Save Our Sharks project Blogger Save Our Sharks (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance)	2016
Volunteer Global marine conservation NGO	2010 - 2013

## References

dr. Erwin Winter - Wageningen Marine Research  
Senior Researcher

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dr. Craig O'Connell - O'Seas Conservation Foundation  
Founding Director & Host Discovery's Sharkweek

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