

Board Members (alphabetical)

Brad Erisman PhD (berisman@ucsd.edu)

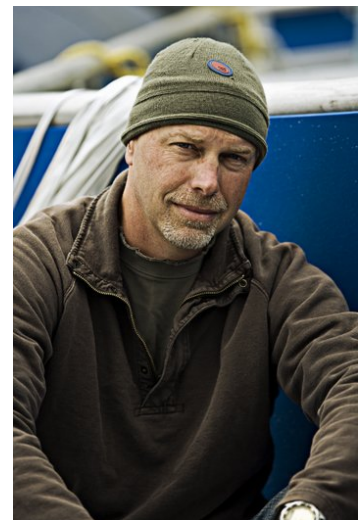
Brad is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), University of California San Diego.

For the past ten years, Brad has focused his research on the reproductive biology, behavior, and evolution of groupers (Epinephelidae), seabasses (Serranidae), and croakers (Sciaenidae). Brad leads all research initiatives on the science, management, and conservation of fish spawning aggregations for the Gulf of California Marine Program (gulfprogram.ucsd.edu) at SIO. Such work involves collaborations between scientists, NGOs, government agencies, fishers, and community leaders from Mexico and abroad to create sustainable fisheries for aggregating fishes of commercial importance in the region. He is also leading research projects to understand the impact of recreational fisheries on spawning aggregations in Southern California, USA. Brad has completed several peer-reviewed manuscripts, magazine articles, booklets, book chapters, technical reports, and other products on fish spawning aggregations in the Gulf of California and elsewhere. He is a member of the IUCN Specialist Group of Groupers and Wrasses.



Michael Domeier PhD (ml.domeier@gmail.com)

Michael is founding President of the Marine Conservation Science Institute, a private nonprofit laboratory based in southern California that strives to bridge the gap between marine research and marine conservation. Michael's research and insight relative to spawning aggregations led him to write a landmark review paper of spawning aggregations (co-authored with Pat Colin) in the 1990's that is perhaps the most cited paper on this subject. In recent years he has spent most of his time studying large pelagic fish species with cutting edge telemetry technology. His white shark research project is currently the subject of a National Geographic Channel television series called Expedition Great White. Michael is a founding member of SCRFA and served as Chairman from 2000-2005.



Richard Hamilton PhD (rhamilton@tnc.org)

Rick is the Senior Melanesia Marine Scientist for The Nature Conservancy.

He lives in Brisbane, Australia and travels regularly to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Richard is fluent in several Melanesian languages and has a background in anthropology and marine science. One of his areas of expertise is documenting and quantifying fishers' local knowledge and incorporating this information into scientific research and marine conservation programs. Much of his work in Melanesia has focused on working collaboratively with communities and governments to locate, monitor and improve the management of spawning aggregations of large exploited reef fishes. Currently he is working with communities in Papua New Guinea and colleagues from James Cook University to examine how the dispersal of planktonic larvae and the movement of adults connect populations of coral reef fishes that aggregate to spawn.



Brian E. Luckhurst PhD (brian.luckhurst@gmail.com)

Brian recently retired as the Senior Fisheries Officer, Department of Environmental Protection, Bermuda Government. He moved to Italy after serving 27 years in his position with the Bermuda Environment Ministry.

Brian has worked in the wider Caribbean region since 1970 and made his first dive on a grouper spawning aggregation in 1973. Most of his work has been with coral reef fishes and he was actively involved in a number of research projects including studies of the reproduction and age and growth of groupers and snappers. He has focused on the dynamics of reef fish spawning aggregations including conservation and management issues in Bermuda, Belize, Cayman Islands and the wider Caribbean. He also monitored the recovery of Bermuda's coral reef fish stocks by diver census for a decade following a fish pot ban in 1990. Other studies have involved the fishery biology of pelagic species such as wahoo and yellowfin tuna. He was a partner in an international program to deploy satellite pop-up tags on blue marlin in the western Atlantic over a five year period. He has also conducted studies on spiny lobster biology, the fishery biology of deep-water fishes (wreckfish, misty grouper) and has collaborated on the genetic characterization of regionally important fish stocks using DNA techniques.



He is the author of over 60 scientific papers and is a co-author of a book published in 1999, "Fishes of Bermuda". He is a past-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (currently vice-Chair) and is a long-standing member of the International Society of Reef Studies. He has acted as a fisheries and marine resources consultant to The Nature Conservancy, CFRAMP (Caribbean Fishery Resources and Management Program) and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council. Since retirement he has continued to provide consultant advice to the Bermuda Government on a range of fisheries issues. Brian is a founding member of SCRFA.

Rick Nemeth PhD (rnemeth@uvi.edu)

Richard earned BS and MS degrees in Fisheries from Humboldt State University and University of Washington before receiving his PhD in Zoology in 1996 from the University of New Hampshire under the guidance of Dr. Peter Sale. His dissertation focused on the recruitment patterns, demographic rates and behavior of the bicolor damselfish in the Virgin Island and Jamaica. He served for a year as resident director of the Hofstra Marine Lab, in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica then began working for the University of the Virgin Islands as assistant research professor. In 1999 Dr. Nemeth was appointed founding director of UVI's Center for Marine and Environmental Studies on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. During his tenure as director he helped establish the Master's in Marine and Environmental Science graduate program and has expanded UVI's research infrastructure and diving program to include technical nitrox and closed circuit rebreathers for studying reef fish spawning aggregations and mesophotic reefs.



With a focus on the conservation and sustainable management of fisheries and coral reefs, Dr. Nemeth helped develop the USVI's long-term coral reef monitoring program and initiated research on critical juvenile fish habitat and conservation and management of reef fish spawning aggregations. This work was instrumental in establishing the Grammanik Bank seasonal closure which protects a multispecies spawning aggregation site in the USVI. His research is currently focused in two areas: 1) spatial and temporal movements of groupers during spawning as a means of identifying biologically relevant boundaries for protecting spawning aggregation sites, and 2) the timing and movement patterns of sharks in relation to spawning aggregation sites. This work relies on acoustic telemetry and has recently expanded into several Caribbean-Pacific comparative studies of grouper spawning aggregations in Fiji and Micronesia.

Martin Russell BASci

(Martin.Russell@environment.gov.au)

Martin is the Chair/CEO of the SCRFA Board of Directors. He is based in Brisbane, Australia, and has been a SCRFA Board member since 2000.

Martin has a Degree in fisheries management and science. Martin has been working for the past 15 years with the Australian Government on fisheries and marine protected area management, policy and industry liaison. He has worked on sustainable fisheries management and the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and currently he is working on marine regional planning for Australia's eastern waters, including the Coral Sea. He has participated in state, federal and international fishery advisory committees and working groups. He has managed projects on the identification, assessment and management of fish spawning aggregations on the Great Barrier Reef.

Martin has extensive research diving experience on the Great Barrier Reef and Seychelles, surveying fish spawning aggregations, crown of thorns starfish, coral and reef fish. He has published and presented on fish spawning aggregation management, tsunami impacts on coral reef fisheries, and marine protected area management strategies.

Yvonne Sadovy PhD (yisadovy@hkucc.hku.hk)

Yvonne is Director of SCRFA. She is also a Professor at the University of Hong Kong's Division of Ecology & Biodiversity, School of Biological Sciences, where she coordinates courses on Fish Biology and Fisheries and Mariculture and supervises masters and doctoral students. She has worked variously on the biology, management and conservation of reef fishes for over 20 years and has produced over 100 peer-reviewed and other publications, including a book on the Reef Fishes of Hong Kong, co-authored with Andy Cornish (who was also SCRFA database keeper). She has a long-standing interest in reproductive biology, especially the relationship between mating systems and vulnerability, with a particular emphasis on groupers, and has worked extensively in the field in the tropics, including research on spawning aggregations. Yvonne is the Chair of the IUCN Specialist Group of Groupers and Wrasses and one of the founding members of SCRFA.



Sebastian Troëng PhD (s.troeng@conservation.org)

Sebastian Troëng is Vice President, Marine Conservation for Conservation International and based in Washington D.C., USA. Sebastian is originally from Sweden and speaks fluent English, Swedish and Spanish as well as conversational French and Indonesian. He holds a Bachelors degree in biology, a Masters degree in marine environmental protection from the UK and a Doctoral degree in animal zoology from University of Lund, Sweden. Sebastian has worked with marine research and conservation for the past 15 years in places like Greece, Fiji, Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica and Panama, and sits on the board of several conservation organizations. Before joining Conservation International in 2006, Sebastian worked for other environmental NGOs including Wetlands International and most recently he was Scientific Director for Caribbean Conservation Corporation, coordinating the longest ongoing sea turtle research and conservation program in the world in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. He has published extensively on sea turtle migrations, conservation and the economic benefits of the ocean. Sebastian enjoys scuba diving to observe spectacular ocean life and diversity.

