Supplement 1.

Table S1. A list of the top 100 elasmobranch researchers based on number of publications and citations cross-listed in searches in Web of Science and Scopus (search terms elasmobranch* OR batoid* OR shark* OR Selachi* AND marine* OR ocean).

Authors	Records	% of 13877
SIMPFENDORFER CA	136	0.98
GRUBER SH	96	0.692
HEITHAUS MR	94	0.677
BENNETT MB	90	0.649
CAIRA JN	85	0.613
HEUPEL MR	82	0.591
SIMS DW	82	0.591
EBERT DA	67	0.483
GALVAN-MAGANA F	67	0.483
WHITE WT	66	0.476
CLIFF G	65	0.468
CARLSON JK	63	0.454
MEEKAN MG	62	0.447
LOWE CG	60	0.432
WALKER TI	59	0.425
COLLIN SP	57	0.411
STEVENS JD	56	0.404
FLAJNIK MF	54	0.389
MUSICK JA	52	0.375
WOOD CM	51	0.368
CHAPMAN DD	50	0.36
MOTTA PJ	50	0.36
HUETER RE	49	0.353
FISK AT	48	0.346
HUVENEERS C	48	0.346
HAZON N	47	0.339
SHIVJI MS	46	0.331
HAMMERSCHLAG N	44	0.317
HAZIN FHV	44	0.317
PAPASTAMATIOU YP	42	0.303
SUGAHARA K	42	0.303
COELHO R	41	0.295
HUSSEY NE	41	0.295
CAPAPE C	40	0.288

CORTES E	40	0.288
MANN J	39	0.281
TAKEI Y	39	0.281
BENZ GW	38	0.274
KAJIURA SM	38	0.274
SMALE MJ	38	0.274
CAPPETTA H	37	0.267
CHEN X	37	0.267
DUDLEY SFJ	37	0.267
EVANS DH	37	0.267
NATANSON LJ	37	0.267
OVENDEN JR	37	0.267
WETHERBEE BM	37	0.267
ANADON R	36	0.259
BEVERIDGE I	36	0.259
GRAHAM JB	36	0.259
SUMMERS AP	36	0.259
FELDHEIM KA	35	0.252
KRIWET J	35	0.252
TOBIN AJ	35	0.252
BLOCK BA	34	0.245
BURGESS GH	34	0.245
CORNELIUS F	34	0.245
DRIGGERS WB	34	0.245
JENSEN K	34	0.245
KLIMLEY AP	34	0.245
LUCIFORA LO	34	0.245
NAYLOR GJP	34	0.245
CONLON JM	33	0.238
WALSH PJ	33	0.238
WINTNER SP	33	0.238
CAILLIET GM	32	0.231
DILL LM	32	0.231
HOLLAND KN	32	0.231
KYNE PM	32	0.231
LIU KM	32	0.231
COMPAGNO LJV	31	0.223
FORBUSH B	31	0.223
FRANCIS MP	31	0.223
TANAKA S	31	0.223

BARNETT A	30	0.216
BRADSHAW CJA	30	0.216
FORREST JN	30	0.216
GELSLEICHTER J	30	0.216
GRUBBS RD	30	0.216
SKOMAL GB	30	0.216
SULIKOWSKI JA	30	0.216
VENKATESH B	30	0.216
ANDERSON WG	29	0.209
BROOKS EJ	29	0.209
CUNY G	29	0.209
DEAN MN	29	0.209
HAMLETT WC	29	0.209
HOFFMAYER ER	29	0.209
HYODO S	29	0.209
LUER CA	29	0.209
WILGA CD	29	0.209
PIERCE SJ	28	0.202
POTTER IC	28	0.202
RODRIGUEZ-MOLDES I	28	0.202
SHIMADA K	28	0.202
ADAMS DH	27	0.195
SATO K	27	0.195
COOKE SJ	26	0.187
HART NS	26	0.187
LAUDER GV	26	0.187

Supplement 2.
Original list of 20 questions sent to expert for ranking and feedback.

STATUS AND THREATS

1. How do we overcome data deficiency in population assessments?

2. How do we address knowledge gaps in taxonomy?

3. What are the emerging threats, besides fishing?

4. What are the most effective and promising approaches for bycatch prevention and mitigation?

GLOBAL CHANGE

5. What are the effects of ocean acidification on elasmobranchs?

6. What are the impacts of climate change on elasmobranchs?

7. How can we reconstruct elasmobranch baselines to inform population declines and recovery targets?

POPULATIONS AND ECOLOGY

8. How can we improve life history estimation for population assessment and conservation?

9. What are the knowledge gaps in global abundance and diversity of elasmobranchs?

10. How can tagging technologies be applied more effectively to inform elasmobranch conservation?

11. How can we more clearly define the ecological role of elasmobranchs in the ecosystem?

12. How can we improve the spatial resolution of population structure?

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

13. What is the role of citizen science in elasmobranch conservation research?

14. How can MPAs contribute to shark and ray conservation?

15. Under what conditions (ecological, environmental, social and political) can shark fisheries be sustainable?

16. What is the role (e.g. food security, economic) of shark fisheries?

17. How can we more accurately measure and monitor total global catch?

18. How can we quantify ecosystem services provided by elasmobranchs? (How does this differ from #11?)

19. What is the role of vessel tracking in assessing fisheries interaction and enforcement?

20. What are the relative impacts of small-scale, industrial and recreational fisheries?

OTHER

Is there some higher priority that we missed? (please state and rank)

Supplement 3.
Geographic distribution and institutional affiliation of the 47 experts who responded to the survey.

Statistics:

COUNTRIES	# FROM COUNTRY		INSTITUTIONS	# FROM INSTITUTIONS
USA	21		Stanford/Hopkins Marine Station	1
Spain	1		University of Rhode Island	1
UK	3		NOAA SEFSC	2
Costa Rica	1		Ecologia Azul	1
Iceland	1		Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	2
Brazil	2		University of Exeter	1
Australia	4		Universidad de Costa Rica	1
New Zealand	2		University of Iceland, Reykjavik	1
South Africa	1		Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco	2
Saudi Arabia	1		NSW Department of Primary Industries	1
Taiwan	1		University of Miami	2
Canada	2		Marine Megafauna Foundation	1
Singapore	1		University of Western Australia	1
France	2		Bangor University	1
Mexico	1		Port Elizabeth Museum at Bayworld	1
Brunei	1		Hawaii Pacific University	1
Austria	1		California State University, Long Beach	1
Switzerland	1		Lancaster University	1
			Wildlife Marine	1
TOTAL RESPONSES	47		King Abdullah University of Science and Technology	1
			National Taiwan Ocean University	1

			Simon Fraser University	1
			University of California, Santa Barbara	1
			Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology	1
			Field Museum	1
			University of Perpignan	1
			University of California, Davis	1
			University of Montpellier	1
			NOAA SWFSC	1
			Oceanos Vivientes	1
			Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries	2
			Florida State University	1
			University Brunei Darussalam	1
			Columbus State University	1
			Moss Landing Marine Labs	1
			Seiurus Biological Consulting	1
			University of Guelph	1
			NIWA	1
			University of Vienna	1
			Florida International University	1
			Independent researcher	1
			Flinders University	1