

James Richard Robbins MSc. BSc.

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PERSONAL PROFILE

- Computationally minded conservation ecologist.
- Experienced in marine megafauna research, analyses and reporting.
- Experienced in data science techniques using R, Python, SQL.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- 2019 - 2022 • **PhD Biological Sciences.** *Portsmouth University, England.* Chapters:
- Shipping in the north-east Atlantic: Increasing concerns for marine conservation
 - Collision risk between vessel traffic and cetaceans in the north-east Atlantic
 - Ship strikes in the north-east Atlantic: identifying hotspots and simulating mitigation measures
 - Vessel crew experience and opinions of ship strike risk, recording procedures, and mitigation techniques
- 2013 - 2014 • **MSc Marine Biology (Distinction).** *University College Cork, Ireland.*
- Thesis: "Investigating the temporal occurrence of dolphins through the creation of innovative C-POD detection parameters and comparative scan sampling analysis within Broadhaven Bay, county Mayo, Ireland."
- 2008 - 2011 • **BSc Zoology (Honours).** *Anglia Ruskin University, England.*
- Dissertation: "Do Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) show evidence for interacting with another cetacean species more than others, off the south-west coast of Tenerife, Canary Islands?"

PUBLICATIONS & EDITORIAL POSTS

- *Associate Editor* (2018 – present) – Marine Biodiversity Records
- Reviewer: Marine Biodiversity Records, Scientific Reports, Marine Ecology Progress Series, Frontiers in Marine Science, Endangered Species Research
- Nielsen, K. **Robbins, J.** Embling, C. (Accepted). Spatial and temporal variability in harbour porpoise density: implications for conservation in UK seas.
- Hocking, D. P., Marx, F. G., Wang, S., Burton, D., Thompson, M., Park, T., **Robbins, J.** ... & Evans, A. R. (2021). Convergent evolution of forelimb-propelled swimming in seals. *Current Biology*, 31(11), 2404-2409.
- **Robbins, J. R.**, Babey, L., & Embling, C. B. (2020). Citizen science in the marine environment: estimating common dolphin densities in the north-east Atlantic. *PeerJ*, 8, e8335. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.8335>
- **Robbins, J. R.**, Park, T., & Coombs, E. J. (2019). Supernumerary teeth observed in a live True's beaked whale in the Bay of Biscay. *PeerJ*, 7, e7809. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.7809>
- Matear, L., **Robbins, J. R.**, Hale, M., & Potts, J. (2019). Cetacean biodiversity in the Bay of Biscay: Suggestions for environmental protection derived from citizen science data. *Marine Policy*, 109, 103672. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2019.103672>
- **Robbins, J.** Evans, A. Poncet, D. Hocking, D. (2019). Cooperative feeding or kleptoparasite tolerance? A rare observation of group prey processing in wild leopard seals. *Polar Biology*. **42** (8). 1625 – 1630.
- **Robbins, J.** Brandecker, A. Culloch, R. Jessopp, M. Cronin, M. (2016). Handling dolphin detections from C-PODs with the development of acoustic parameters for verification, and the exploration of species identification possibilities. *Bioacoustics*. **25** (2). 99 – 110.

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

- Helen Webb (2020). Harbour porpoise distribution shift in UK waters. University of Portsmouth.
- Veronica Steinheimer (2019). Correlative modelling of fin whale occurrence and plankton distribution. Plymouth University.
- William Tingle (2019). Temporal and spatial change in fin whale habitat use in the Bay of Biscay. Plymouth University
- Stephanie Hollanda (2019). Habitat modelling cetaceans in the North Sea. *Portsmouth University*
- Emma Bell (2019). Important areas for beaked whale species in the Bay of Biscay. *Portsmouth University*
- Kimberly Nielsen. (2018). Spatial and temporal variability in harbour porpoise density: implications for conservation in UK seas. Plymouth University

RECENT PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Associate editor (2018 – present): Marine Biodiversity Records: Marine Megafauna.
- Visiting Researcher (2017 - 2020): Plymouth University: Marine Vertebrates Research Group
- Organising committee (2013 – 2015 & 2020 - Present): United Kingdom and Ireland Student Chapter of the Society of Marine Mammalogy. **Secured funding**, helped with venue, created adverts and posters.
- British Ecological Society – Member. 2019 – Present.
- European Cetacean Society – Member. 2014 – 2015. 2019 – 2020.
- Society for Marine Mammalogy – Member June 2021 – Present.
- Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMAREST) – Member. 2020 – Present.

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE

12/20 – Present • Observer – Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas
11/17 – 09/19 • Science Officer – ORCA
04/17 – 09/17 • Visiting Research Fellow – Plymouth University
04/17 – 09/17 • Volunteer - Marine Biological Association
04/17 • Seabird Volunteer - Ascension Island Conservation
09/15 – 04/17 • Zoologist – British Antarctic Survey, Bird Island, South Georgia.
12/14 – 03/15 • Assistant Research Biologist – Point Blue Conservation Science, Farallon Islands, CA.
09/14 – 10/14 • Research Intern – Seawatch Foundation, Cardigan Bay.
03/14 – 09/14 • Research Assistant – Coastal Marine Research Centre.
05/13 – 07/13 • Research Assistant – Aberdeen University Lighthouse Fieldstation, Scotland.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

- Society of Marine Mammalogy 2021, Florida/Online. Short talk.
- British Ecological Society Quantitative Special Interest Group meeting, Online. August 2021. Speed talk.
- United Kingdom & Ireland Student Chapter of the Society of Marine Mammalogy 2021, Online. Oral presentation.
- Blue Data Conference. January 2021. Virtual.
- International Marine Conservation Congress. August 2020. Virtual. Poster presentation.
- Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology Conference. July 2020. Virtual.
- International Statistics in Ecology Conference. June 2020. Virtual.

- Environmental Interactions of Marine Renewables. April 2020. Virtual.
- British Ecological Society. London, March 2020. Workshop: Making and impact: Understanding the ways you can engage with the UK Parliament and Policy. London, UK.
- United Kingdom & Ireland Student Chapter of the Society of Marine Mammalogy 2020, Galway, Ireland. Oral presentation. **Awarded best talk.**
- World Marine Mammal Conference. Barcelona, Spain. 2019.
 - **Robbins, J.** Coxon, R. Ray, N. Ford, A. Marley, S. Babey, L. (Poster - Presenter). Fin whale behaviours change during close-encounters with large ferries: investigating ship strikes from platforms of opportunity.
 - Nielsen, K. **Robbins, J.** Embling, C. (Poster). Spatio-temporal patterns in harbour porpoise density: implications for conservation in UK seas.
 - Hamilton, S. Embling, C. Babey, L. **Robbins, J.** (Poster - Presenter). Citizen science in the marine environment: A case-study estimating common dolphin densities.
- Introduction to changing the behaviour of people to advance marine mammal conservation goals. Barcelona, December 2019.
- Taking stock of land-based cetacean citizen science datasets. Barcelona, December 2019.
- Species distribution modelling workshop. Organised by British Ecological Society. Nottingham University. 2019.
- South-west Marine Ecosystems, Plymouth University. 2017.
- European Cetacean Society 2015, Malta. Poster: "Developing acoustic parameters for dolphin detections and species differentiation using CPODs."
- United Kingdom and Ireland Student Chapter of the Society of Marine Mammalogy 2014, St Andrews. Short-talk: CPOD verification methodologies