

A day in the life of...

Name: Joel Kimber

Job title: PhD student – Elasmobranch behaviour, Cranfield University & Marine Biological Association (Fisheries Society of the British Isles funded)

Responsibilities:

Undertake research looking at *S. canicula* (Small-spotted Catshark or Lesser-spotted Dogfish) including

- a) difference between the sexes in electro-receptive foraging behaviour;
- b) whether the sharks are able to learn to adapt their e-receptive behaviour to e-fields should they be rewarded for responding and/or not rewarded;
- c) whether they are able to perceive differences between e-fields (by showing preferences should fields be presented simultaneously).

The applied aspect of this research is the increasing number of offshore renewable energy developments and possible effects on benthic elasmobranchs.

Daily routine:

Varies a great deal but main tasks include designing experiments and apparatus, undertaking behavioural experiments in the labs, maintenance and care of tanks and fish, analysis of results and writing up work.

How I got here:

BSc in marine biology and MSc in Tropical Coastal Management at Newcastle University, Shark Biology internship at Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, various volunteer positions doing a range of marine biological work both in the UK and abroad, research assistant post at Cranfield University lead to current PhD project.

Best bits:

Getting out to sea on the research vessel to collect specimens and help out with the lab's fortnightly trawl sampling, hands on aspect of animal husbandry, maintaining and building equipment, relaxed working atmosphere of academia surrounded by nice, likeminded people.

Worst bits: Statistics! Finding funding, trying to get published.

More information:

At the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom I work in the Fish Behaviour and Ecology group of Dr David Sims: <http://www.mba.ac.uk/Fellows/Sims/fbewebsite.htm>