

Francisco Castro Velasco

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Languages: Spanish (mother tongue), English (fluent and 100% bilingual), basic Italian (20%)



Abilities:

I'm experienced in working outdoors, having participated in different marine-related projects as field scientist and ecotourism guides, particularly with elasmobranch and cetacean species. I'm creative and imaginative, but also analytical and with good oral and written communication skills, especially for teaching and science communication. I'm an excellent swimmer, and a competent diver, with good free-diving capacity and an Advanced SCUBA Diving certification. I am a highly competent communicator, able to write material from an academic standpoint to a wider audience, and make use or create photographic and video content. I have a driving vehicle license (standard and automatic).

Recently I'm focusing in creating educational videos on wildlife and conservation. An example of my work may be found in my experimental site:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoVJMxyzhkjlius-Sk-0pQ> . I have experience in photography, mainly through courses and nature projects. I recently acquired a professional Canon 5D Mark IV with a water-proof Nauticam housing, which renders very high quality material in 4K.

IT: Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Imovie and "Adobe Premiere". Basic use of photography editing "Lightroom"; ESRI's GIS ArcMap; and statistical programme "R".

Education

2017 Filmmaking Diploma, by the Mexican filmmaking school: *Viviendo Cine*. Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.

2014-2015: MSc Marine Environmental Management, University of York.

Main modules:

- Summer placement with the Maltese NGO **SHARKLAB** (supervisor: Greg Nowell). Shark and marine biology education in public spaces; commercial fish-landings monitoring in Valetta's harbour.
- Dissertations: "**Identification of batoids in coastal Malta(1)**" and "**Social perception changes on Sharks in Queensland, Australia (2)**". (Supervisors: Greg Nowell and Julie Hawkins respectively).
- *Coral reef identification and assessment*; module and fieldtrip in the Indian Ocean to learn how to identify different coral and fish species, as well as indicators of human impact.

2008-2013 Environmental Sciences graduate, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, México

- Module excerpt: Ecology and landscape ecology, mastozoology, marine invertebrate zoology, ichthyology, cartography, Introduction to GIS, environmental education and politics.
- **2018 Advanced PADI SCUBA diving certification** ANDI, 40 dives as of May 2018.
- Voluntary lifeguard at the "Asociación de Salvamento y Rescate Acuático" of Baja California. ISLA SURF (International Surf Lifesaving Association) "Oceanic Rescue" certified, 2016.

Some job and research experiences:

- **Current job at: Marine mammal monitoring. Environmental consultancy BIIG:** Monitoring of cetaceans and pinnipeds on the northern coast of Todos los Santos Bay, with the Ensenada. Boss: Rafael Solana.
- **Whale Watching and research assistant (winter 2018):** Whale watching guide and naturalist. Assistant photographer and researcher in the identification of individual humpback whales in “Bay of Banderas”, Mexico. Boss: Óscar Frey.
- **Whale watching and nature guide (winter 2017).** San Ignacio lagoon, Baja California, at *Baja Discovery* private camp. Activities included boat-tours to watch whales, educational trips to the coast and mangroves to identify coastal fauna, kayak tours, presentations, and more.
- **Saving our Sharks placement (winter 2017).** Creation of a short-documentary on NGO’s Saving our Sharks and local divers effort to protect Bull sharks through ecotourism. Contact details: Luis Lombardo 9981832505; Pamela Vazquez 9981952108.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1OqDzm9NMQ&t=4s>
- **Great White shark monitoring programme (2016);** science communicator for the Great White shark research programme in Guadalupe Island, with NGO ECOCIMATI.
- **Swimming instructor (2016-onwards).** Swimming lessons, mainly for children, at private fitness club *Deportivo Las Fincas*, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.
- **Work experience at films@59 (2015).** Work experience with British company *Films@59*, mainly at the sound editing with Graham Wild, picture grading and foleys department.
+44(0)1179064300 (main office)
- **BBC’s assistant researcher (2015).** Assistant researcher for BBC’s “The Burning North” episode for the Mexico series (uncredited).
- **Onca Explorations (summer 2014; winter 2016).** Whale watching tour guide and science communicator. Assistant in humpback whale photo-identification research.
Oscarguzon@gmail.com.
- **Birdwatcher and field scientist (summer 2013).** Working as a field scientist in Baja California for the “Management and conservation of Islands” NGO (GECI in Spanish).
- **Whale watching tour guide and photographer (winter 2013 & 2014).** Sergio’s Sportfishing, Ensenada Baja California, Mexico.
- **Whale shark and Great White Shark monitoring (2012, 2013).** Volunteer field research for the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP in Spanish) in Baja California.

Other interests: Fantasy and fiction literature. Was a member of “Pluma Joven” in 2012 and 2013, a group of young people in Ensenada to promote literature and writing through workshops, seminars and activities. Amateur fantasy and fiction writer, with one tale published in a limited anthology volume by “Pluma Joven”, 2014, and two novels still at work.

References:

José Luis Zúñiga, Baja Discovery, +5216461603628 (He was a former member of Marine Dynamics, South Africa, a company offering tours and internships to see and work with Great White sharks).

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Greg Nowell. Sharklab. +356 99431098.

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