

Special Issue

Sharks and Skates: Ecology, Distribution and Conservation

Message from the Guest Editor

Chondrichthyans (sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras) represent one of the oldest and most ecologically various vertebrate lineages. This group of predators occupy the top of aquatic food webs and play an important functional role in the control of coastal and oceanic ecosystem structure and function. However, nowadays, overfishing and habitat degradation are altering their populations leading to a worrisome decline of these species worldwide because of their low resilience. Moreover, data on the stock status of this important resource remain still poor or non-existent, which is due to a problematic taxonomy (e.g., misidentification issues). In this Special Issue, we invite contributions that investigate the life histories of Chondrichthyans (e.g., reproduction, age and growth), trophic ecology, genetic information and updated data on their distribution in order to collect information that is helpful to develop conservation plans for these marine predators. Topics may include, but are not limited to, species inhabiting coastal waters, transitional waters (e.g., freshwaters), oceans, deep seas, pelagic and bottom environments.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2023, ranks 10/80 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 16/167 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.0.

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