

CURRICULUM VITAE

GEORGINA WHITTOME

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EDUCATION

University of St Andrews, UK

September 2022 – Present

PhD in Biology supervised by Professor Philip Hammond, Dr Chris Sutherland, Dr Sophie Smout and John Calambokidis

PhD title: Spatial ecology of eastern North Pacific blue whales

University of St Andrews, UK

September 2020 – September 2021

MSc in Marine Mammal Science with distinction (2020/1 Dean's List)

Research thesis: An investigation into the population parameters of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) in the Gulf of California.

University of Bath, UK

September 2009 – June 2013

1st Class BSc Honours Degree in Biology (including industrial placement year with distinction)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Freelance Yoga Teacher

April 2020 – Present

Guiding vinyasa, hatha and yin classes for studios, organisations, and private groups

British Antarctic Survey, UK

March 2022 – August 2022

Analysing acoustic data to identify the underwater sound sources around South Georgia

Merck & Co, NJ, USA

Global Market Access and Pricing Lead

September 2017 – August 2019

Working with colleagues and governments around the world to improve patient access to medicines

Key skills: Collaboration across countries and teams, data analysis, negotiation, report writing, presenting to large audiences

Global Project Manager, Merck Research Laboratories (GMAP rotation 2)

August 2016 – September 2017

Managing the multi-disciplinary team responsible for the holistic product development of a late-stage oncology product

Key skills: Project management, leadership, teamwork, co-ordination across countries and divisions

About the General Management Acceleration Programme (GMAP): An internal program to develop future global enterprise-wide leaders sponsored by The Office of the CEO. It aimed to develop diverse leaders by providing leadership training and working experiences across divisions, functions, and countries through two 12-month rotations.

Merck Sharp and Dohme Ltd, UK (known as Merck & Co in the US and Canada)

Chief of Staff to the Managing Director, UK & Ireland (GMAP rotation 1)

July 2015 – August 2016

Partnering with leadership to plan and deliver the strategic and operational agenda of the business

Key skills: Communications, problem solving, organisation, adaptability, networking

Customer Representative

October 2014 – July 2015

Promotion of cardiometabolic products to primary and secondary care customers

Key skills: Building relationships, sales, business acumen

Business Insights Lead

July 2013 – October 2014

Delivering insights and recommendations to the marketing teams through market analysis and research

Key skills: Analytics, written communication, problem solving, market research

Business Insights Student Industrial Placement Year

June 2011 – August 2012

Supporting the business through designing and delivering performance reports tracking critical metrics

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (2025). Using spatial capture–recapture methods to estimate long-term spatiotemporal variation of a wide-ranging marine species. *Ecography*, 2025: e07878. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecog.07878>

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Douglas, A. B., Fishbach, M., Sears, R., & Hammond, P. S. (2024). Changes in blue whale survival and abundance in the Gulf of California. *Marine Mammal Science*, 40(4), e13132. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.13132>

Jolliffe, C. D., Edyvane, K., Genty, G., ..., **Whittome, G.**, et al. (2026). Collaborating for Conservation: A Summary of Current and Future Directions in Blue Whale Science. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 36, no. 2: e70331. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.70331>.

IN PROGRESS

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Irvine, L., Mate, B. R., Palacios, D. M., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (*In review*). Integrating multiple data sources improves abundance estimation in spatial capture–recapture models. *Ecology and Evolution*.

Whittome, G., Sutherland, C., Hammond, P.S., Smout, S. and Calambokidis, J. (*In review*). Environmental drivers of blue whale abundance off the United States west coast across three decades. *Royal Society Open Science*.

PRESENTATIONS

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (2026). Environmental drivers of blue whale abundance off the United States west coast across three decades. Short talk. *European Cetacean Society 37th Annual Conference*, Dundee, United Kingdom.

Whittome, G. (2025). Modelling abundance and distribution of eastern North Pacific blue whales using spatial capture–recapture methods. Invited seminar. *British Antarctic Survey Ecosystems seminar series*, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Irvine, L., Mate, B. R., Palacios, D. M., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (2025). Integrating multiple data sources improves abundance estimation in spatial capture–recapture models. Poster presentation. *British Ecological Society Annual Meeting 2025*, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (2025). Investigating spatiotemporal variation in eastern North Pacific blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) abundance using spatially-explicit capture–recapture methods. Oral presentation. *Society for Marine Mammalogy UK and Ireland student chapter conference 2025*, St Andrews, UK.

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Hammond, P.S., Smout, S. and Sutherland, C. (2024). Investigating spatiotemporal variation in eastern North Pacific blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) abundance using spatially-explicit capture–recapture methods. Oral presentation. *25th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals*, Perth, Australia.

Whittome, G., Calambokidis, J., Douglas, A., Flynn, K., Hammond, P.S. and Smout, S (2023). Improving our understanding of the population ecology of eastern North Pacific blue whales. Oral presentation. *Society for Marine Mammalogy UK and Ireland student chapter conference 2023*, St Andrews, UK.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & TRAINING

Primary modeling expertise: Spatial capture–recapture, mark–recapture, data integration

Other modelling and statistics: Distance sampling, hidden Markov models, integrated population model, Maximum likelihood methods, generalized linear and generalized linear mixed models (GLM, GLMM), generalized additive models (GAM), species distribution models; model fitting, diagnostics, selection, validation, and predictive skills testing.

Training: Integrated Population Modelling workshop, University of Montana; Bayesian Statistics Online Course, University of Cambridge

Software: R (including ggplot and tidyverse), MARK, Raven Lite, QGIS, JAGS

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Cascadia Research Collective, California & Washington, US (2021-2024)
Periodically supporting field surveys to collect photo-identifications (photo-IDs) and biopsy samples of baleen whales. Part of a team tagging whales, conducting focal follows and retrieving tags. Assisting marine mammal necropsies by collecting data, taking photos and processing samples. Processing and matching photo-ID data.

Barefoot Conservation, Raja Ampat, Indonesia (January 2020)
Conducting research into the health of coral reefs through data collection and analysis. This included line-transect surveys of coral health and species abundance, manta ray photo-ID work and community education.

Great Whale Conservancy, Baja, Mexico (February 2018 & March 2019)
Accompanying field research into the blue whale population in the Gulf of California. Data was collected for all cetaceans encountered, including GPS location, behavioural observations and photo-IDs.

Underwater Africa, Tofo Beach, Mozambique (November 2018)
Conducting research into the health of the marine environment. Capturing photo data of reefs to assess species abundance, gathering data through transects from the mangrove nurseries and photo ID of dolphins, manta rays and whale sharks. Additionally, I developed a business plan to secure funding for a local community project.

TEACHING

Guest Lecture, Exploitation of Marine Mammals by Humans, 4th year undergraduates, University of St Andrews (2025)
Mentoring, Statistical modelling guidance for an MSc thesis, Cascadia Research Collective / University of Miami (2025)
Guest Lecture, Estimating abundance using mark-recapture methods, MSc students, University of St Andrews (2024 & 2025)
Thesis co-supervision, Estimating abundance of humpback whales in Faxaflói Bay, MSc thesis, University of St Andrews (2024)
Teaching assistant, Population Biology computer laboratories, MSc students, University of St Andrews (2023 – 2025)
Teaching assistant, Conservation Research Methods practical classes and computer laboratories 4th year undergraduates, University of St Andrews (2022 – 2024)
Teaching assistant, Mathematical and Statistical Modelling for Biologists computer laboratories, MSc students, University of St Andrews (2022 & 2023)

ACADEMIC SERVICE & OUTREACH

Reviewer, Marine Mammal Science (1 paper) (2024)
Life sciences day for high school students, Scottish Oceans Institute, University of St Andrews (2023)
Science discovery day for children and families, St Andrews (2023)
Post graduate student representative, School of Biology, University of St Andrews (2022 – 2023)

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Marine Mammalogy
British Ecological Society
European Cetacean Society

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & LICENCES

- **Marine Mammal Observer** (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)
- **Powerboat handling level 2** (Royal Yachting Association)
- **Full UK driving licence** (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency UK)
- **Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver** (Professional Association of Diving Instructors)
- **Certified Reef Check EcoDiver** (Reef Check Worldwide)
- **Certified PMLG Project Manager** (Project Management Leadership Group)
- **CIM Foundation Certificate in Marketing** with distinction (Chartered Institute of Marketing)
- **RYT® 200 Yoga Teacher** (Ruh Yoga, Yoga Alliance)