Twan Stoffers Fish ecologist and conservationist

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Biology Master of Sciences (MSc.) - Marine biology, Adaptation and behavioral biology Wageningen University & Research (WUR) - The Netherlands - December 2014 Studying the functioning and management of aquatic/biological systems. Courses on conservation biology, fisheries, aquatic ecology and life history of terrestrial and aquatic organisms.

MSc thesis: Influences of fisheries and habitat on tropical reef fish communities - Aquaculture and Fisheries group (WUR) MSc thesis: Eye-body coordination of newborn lifebearing fish - Experimental Zoology group (WUR)

Work experience

PhD Candidate freshwater fish ecology - Aquaculture & Fisheries Group - WUR - The Netherlands July 2017 - present

As a PhD student, I oversee and coordinate fieldwork activities, data collection and analysis, report/paper writing, and educational activities. In this large-scale project, I study how restored floodplains in the Netherlands function as nursery areas for riverine fishes. I work on a variety of topics, including evaluating the ecological efficacy of restored floodplains over time, studying food availability and gut contents of juvenile fish, and extensive modelling of optimal floodplain environmental characteristics for larval and juvenile fish.

Consultant in protected species working group - UN SPAW-RAC - Guadeloupe - France March 2020 - present

As an independent expert in a Caribbean-wide working group of scientists and conservationists, I am involved in the conservation of fish and elasmobranch populations in the Wider Caribbean Region. In this capacity, I assist in the implementation of the Caribbean Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW-RAC). This comprises proposal writing and evaluation, consultation, and attendance at Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meetings (UN SPAW-STAC).

Conservation project officer - Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) - Bonaire (Caribbean Netherlands) May 2016 - July 2017

As project officer, I was in charge of the shark conservation project "Save our Sharks" on six Caribbean islands. I was also involved in other elements of conservation management and education in the Dutch Caribbean, and I successfully wrote a grant proposal for a Caribbean bat conservation project granted through the EU BEST2.0 programme. My responsibilities included daily project administration, science coordination, fieldwork assistance, on-island support, education material preparation, event management, and project liaison.

Junior Researcher - Wageningen Marine Research - WUR - The Netherlands

January 2015 - July 2017

I conducted and analysed Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) surveys in the Dutch Caribbean (Bonaire, St Eustatius, Saba, and St. Maarten) to study fish community dynamics and shark abundances. I also conducted regular on-site field training for employees and students from local conservation organisations.

Top publications

Stoffers, T., Buijse, A. D., Geerling, G. W., Jans, L. H., Schoor, M. M., Poos, J. J., ... & Nagelkerke, L. A. J. (2022). Freshwater fish biodiversity restoration in floodplain rivers requires connectivity and habitat heterogeneity at multiple spatial scales. Science of The Total Environment, 156509. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.156509

Stoffers, T., Buijse, A. D., Verreth, J. A. J., & Nagelkerke, L.A. J. (2022). Environmental requirements and heterogeneity of rheophilic fish nursery habitats in European lowland rivers: Current insights and future challenges. Fish and Fisheries, 23, 162 -182. https://doi.org/10.1111 /faf.12606

Stoffers, T., de Graaf M., Winter H. V., Nagelkerke L.A. J. (2021).

Distribution and ontogenetic habitat shifts of reef-associated shark species in the northeastern Caribbean. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 665, 145 - 158. https://doi.org/10.3354/meps 13688

Stoffers, T., Collas, F. P. L., Buijse, A. D., Geerling, G. W., Jans, L. H., Van Kessel, N., & Nagelkerke, L.A. J. (2021). 30 years of large river restoration: How long do restored floodplain channels remain suitable for targeted rheophilic fishes in the lower river Rhine?, Science of The Total Environment, 755-1, 142931. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.142931

Profile

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Date of Birth 5 April 1988

Nationality Dutch

Professional skills

Practical

Project management Fieldwork under difficult conditions (sea/land) Shark tagging Laboratory animal handling Scientific writing Grant writing Didactic skills Outdoor teaching PADI Rescue diver

Computer

SeaGIS video analysis R statistics Matlab SPSS Microsoft Office Photoshop **Video Analytics** Image Editing

Language

Dutch (native) English (excellent) German (reasonable) French (basic) Spanish (basic) Papiamentu (basic)