

First **NATIONAL-SCALE** snapshot of how marine researchers engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES

63% of respondents **HAD ENGAGED** with Indigenous communities during their career, **BUT** most of their projects had not involved engagement.

Engagement was typically **LESS THAN THREE YEARS**, and occurred mid-project, such as during field-work.

WHERE PERCEPTIONS DIFFERED

35% WERE UNSURE about which projects required engagement.

OPINIONS WERE DIVIDED about whether the whole team, the principal investigator, or a specialist liaison officer **SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE** for engagement.

WHERE PERCEPTIONS CONVERGED

80% SAW BENEFIT IN LEARNING about culturally appropriate engagement, especially from Indigenous communities and experienced colleagues.

SEEKING MUTUAL BENEFITS for research and Indigenous communities was identified by the majority of respondents as a **MOTIVATION TO ENGAGE**.

The majority of respondents thought engagement would **BECOME MORE IMPORTANT** in future.



Less than a third of 128 survey respondents used Indigenous community **ENGAGEMENT PROTOCOL** documents to develop their understanding.



This study moves us to an evidence-based understanding of what marine scientists are collectively thinking and doing.

*Paul Hedge,
Marine Biodiversity Hub*



Progression on engagement is based on an evolving relationship built on trust and willingness to listen, learn and respond.

*Cass Hunter,
CSIRO, Kuku Yalanji and
Maluiligal woman*



I hope that we can reflect on alternative ways to balance voices, stories, and narratives in our scientific 'end-products'.

*Ingrid van Putten,
CSIRO*



We need to be aware as scientists of the pressures we place on communities who are already over-extended.

*Mibu Fischer,
CSIRO, Quandamooka woman*

CONTACT

Paul.Hedge@csiro.au

Further reading: Hedge P, van Putten EI, Hunter C, and Fischer M (2020) Perceptions, Motivations and Practices for Indigenous Engagement in Marine Science in Australia, *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

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