

## **Stéphanie Marie Sabbagh**

PhD. Student  
Individualized PhD Program  
Concordia University  
Hall Building, H1255.16  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Montreal, QC, Canada, H3G 1M8  
smsabbagh@gmail.com  
researchgate: Stephanie M. Sabbagh  
linkedIN: Stephanie M. Sabbagh  
skype: corall0ve

### **CAREER OBJECTIVES**

To integrate my research efforts in coastal ecosystems, fisheries management and conservation with my experience as an educator, and to facilitate knowledge transfer of scientific findings through outreach programs, conservation initiatives and contributions to ongoing management strategies and adaptive policies.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATION**

- 10+ years experience in Belizean, Australian and Barbadian coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems.
- Multi-lingual (French, English, Spanish, Belizean Kriol) with working knowledge of Italian and Arabic.
- Adjunct lecturer at The University of Belize, and 15+ years teaching overall (Marine Biology, Sciences, Math, French, Swimming, Skiing, SCUBA diving).
- Open-minded, determined, creative and dedicated.

### **FORMAL EDUCATION**

#### **PhD. Individualized Program, Concordia University - 2014 - Present**

##### **Quebec Center for Biodiversity Research student member**

Thesis: Working at the interface between marine sciences, social sciences and policies to find successful shark conservation outcomes on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

#### **PhD. Marine track, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences - 2013-2014**

School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook, New York, United States of America.

- Took courses in Oceanography (Biological, Physical and Biogeochemical) and Fisheries Ecology
- Collected data with NOAA during shark fishing tournaments on Long Island
- Trained in shark reproduction methods - NOAA Fisheries Services - Narragansett laboratory
- Worked on identification of shark species from DNA extracted from fins from Belize

#### Awards & Scholarship

- CCFRR- FSBI Synergy Award to present my research at the FSBI Symposium, Plymouth, England, 2015
- *Fonds de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (Québec)* (FQRSC) Doctoral scholarship. 2012-2015

#### Conferences and Symposiums

- **Talk** - Ressources naturelles et conflits: le cas des requins au Belize - Colloque étudiant multidisciplinaire « Ressources naturelles et conflits. » Université de Montréal. March 14th, 2015.

#### Memberships

- International Society for Reef Studies
- American Elasmobranch Society

**MSc. in Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University - Sept. 2010 - Dec. 2012**  
**Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Fellow, Panama - Neotropical option**

*Thesis:* Social factors affecting shark conservation on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef: a case study of Belize

Conferences and Symposiums

- **Talk** - 12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium, Australia, July 2012.
- **Panel of experts & researchers** - McGill University's Annual Education conference, Canada, March 2012.
- **Talk** - NEO Annual Symposium, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama, August 2011.
- **Poster** - McGill School of Environment - Research Symposium: Global Env. Change, Canada, April 2011.
- **Poster** - McGill Sustainability Symposium, Canada, March 2011.

Awards and Scholarships

- **Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant**, collaborator with Dr. Gordon Hickey, May 2011.
- **McGill Sustainability Symposium**, poster presentation winner, March 2011.
- **Principal's Graduate Fellowship**, September 2010.
- **Provost's Graduate Fellowship**, September 2010.
- **Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute/NEO/McGill Graduate Fellowship**, April 2010.

Memberships

- International Society for Reef Studies

**Bachelor of Science, Great Distinction, McGill University, 2001-2004**

**University of Queensland, Australia 2004 - Bilateral Exchange (U21 Institution)**

Major in Biology- specialization in Marine Ecology, Conservation and Coastal Zone Management

- Independent Study, Centre for Marine Studies, UQ, Australia, February - August 2004.
- Participation in the competitive Tropical Marine Network Program, Australia, July-August 2004.
- Field work, research and outreach at Gault Nature Reserve (Québec, Canada), Bellairs Research Institute (Barbados), Heron Island Research Station (Australia), and Moreton Bay Research Station (Australia).

Awards and Scholarships

- *Universitas 21* Travel Award. April 2004.
- Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) Award. April 2004.

**EXPERIENCE**

**Science Editor, Beautiful Oceans, Outremont, QC, Jan. 2009 - Sept. 2009**

- Create coral reef species identification cards for SCUBA instructors and tour guides in the Caribbean.

**Adjunct Lecturer, University of Belize, Belize, Central America, Fall 2008**

- Taught *Introduction to Marine Ecology* and *Environmental Conservation & Development* courses.
- Organized first field trip on Belize Barrier Reef.
- Proposed a SCUBA Diving Internship / Independent Study Program for UB Students.
- Initiated on and off campus campaigns promoting better environmental practices
- Designed student projects to advise the mayor (engine idling; coral reef conservation and awareness).
- Invited to give a lecture on academic integrity to other students and lecturers.

**Research Assistant, Wildlife Conservation Society, Belize, Oct. 2007- June 2008**

- Organized and conducted fieldwork on sharks and groupers across Belize's reef (tagging, data collection).
- Collaborated with fishers, managed data, and created GIS maps pertaining to shark and grouper populations on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.
- Prepared monthly financial reports and other administrative duties.

**Marine Biologist / Consultant, Southern Belize, Aug. 2006 - Dec. 2006, Oct. 2007- Dec. 2008**

- Monitored coral health, fish diversity, benthic communities and commercial species stocks.
- Trained reserve managers, rangers and tour guide operators on coral bleaching and diseases.
- Lead international volunteer trainings such as Earthwatch Institute.
- Participated in national and regional workshops on coral reef management.
- Proposed new projects for Punta Gorda and surrounding Mayan villages.
- Attended the 11<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium in Fort Lauderdale with the Belize delegation; the Nature Conservancy asked me to submit a proposal for a Belize national plan of action on coral bleaching.

**Marine Biologist, Friends of Nature, Aug. 2006-Dec. 2006**

- Organized logistics and implemented diverse research monitoring on the Belize Barrier Reef: spawning aggregations, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef synoptic monitoring protocol, seagrassNET, ReefCheck, etc.
- Created enforcement database with arrests and court orders.

**Marine Biologist and Dive Instructor Intern, The Whitsundays, Austral Summer 2004-2005**

- Taught guests about the reef and its species through ‘reef safaris’ snorkeling with groups.
- Guided certified divers around dive sites.
- Assisted in teaching beginners while training to obtain my assistant dive instructor certificate.
- Conducted dive briefings onboard the catamaran Seaflight and gave various outreach presentations.
- Monitored “stinger” jellyfish and maintained the catamaran Seaflight’s pontoon, 100 KM off the mainland.

**OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Tropical Marine Network Program, Austral Summer 2004, Australia - Competitive entry**

➤ **Heron Island Research Station, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef (GBR)**

- Studied oceanography and biogeography of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Studied taxonomy and biodiversity, human impacts and challenges facing coral reefs.
- Studied fish diversity and intertidal communities.
- Coral species identification *in situ* and coral bleaching using bleached and non-bleached samples.

➤ **Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island, QLD**

- Studied coastal zone management through various international case studies and formal mock consultant simulations, stakeholder simulations and ministerial briefing.
- Submitted paper on the importance of effective coastal zone management for the future of the Australian environment and economy.

**Independent Research Project, Heron Island Research Station, GBR, 2004**

- Conducted fieldwork for my independent study on the sublethal effects of coral bleaching.
- Tried the now widely used CoralWatch Coral Health Chart as part of my investigation.
- Conducted lab work in both physiological and PC2 molecular labs to process coral decalcification, lipid and protein extractions, chlorophyll *a* and *zooxanthellae* counts.
- Final thesis submitted: *Sublethal Effects of Bleaching in four species of Acropora on Heron Island, Southern Great Barrier Reef, during the Austral Summer/Fall 2004 Bleaching Event.*

**McGill University’s Bellairs Research Institute, Barbados, Summer 2003**

- Studied fish diversity and effects of MPAs (Folkestone Marine Reserve and outside reserve).
- Monitored populations of the black-spined sea urchin *Diadema antillarum*.
- Studied damselfish behavior and territoriality, population dynamics, succession and recolonization of organisms living in an area of high physical disturbance in seagrass beds
- Mock presentation to American contractors at the Graeme Hall Swamp & Nature Sanctuary about the importance of mangroves to the local mud crab community.

### **Gault Nature Reserve, Mt-St-Hilaire, QC., Summer 2002**

- Studied species succession and tree diversity after the 1997 Québec ice storm.
- Collected and classified microorganisms inhabiting Mt-St-Hilaire's creeks.
- Studied fish biodiversity in Lake Hertel by means of seining.
- Independent study: *Predictions on the Relative Abundance & the New Space Available for the Macrophytic Populations Living in Lake Hertel, Mt-St-Hilaire, Québec, if the Dam was to be Partially or Totally Removed.*

### **OTHER EXPERIENCE & INVOLVEMENT**

#### **Teacher, Lester B. Pearson School Board, QC, Feb. 2009 - Dec. 2012, April 2014-Present Adult Ed., High School and Elementary (teacher and substitute teacher)**

- French Prep and French Conversation for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced; French Sec. 4
- Individual Mathematics Secondary 2-5, Math 416.
- Sciences, International Baccalaureate Program.
- Guest lecture on ecosystems, coral reefs and interconnectivity.

#### **Ski Instructor, Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance -Level 2**

Rod Roy Snow School, QC, Canada, 1999-2005, 2007, 2009.  
Whistler Kids, Whistler Blackcomb Resort, BC, Canada, 2005-2006.

#### **Waterfront Lifeguard, Île-Bizard & Cap St-Jacques Nature Parks, Summers 1999-2003, 2005**

*Parc Nature de l'Île-Bizard & Parc Nature du Cap St-Jacques, QC, Canada*

- Supervised patrons & schools / camps during public swims.
- Increased beach and park conservation awareness with various outreach and presentations.

#### **Note Taking Club Writer & Coordinator & VP Social, McGill Biology Student Union, 2001-2003**

- Coordinated NTCs writers for my class of Neurobiology & Behavior; transcribed NTCs.
- Organized the department's Ski Trips.
- Made various presentations and announcements to class (over 1000 students).

#### **French & Biology Tutor; Ski Instructor, John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, 1999-2001**

- Helped manage the Biology Learning Center and French Learning Center while tutoring fellow college students in exchange for credits towards College Degree (French).
- Taught my Physical Education class (skiing), while member of Ski Team in exchange of credits.

#### **Head-Lifeguard & Red Cross Swimming Instructor, Aquatic Association of D.D.O, QC, 1997-2003**

- Supervised swims & teams of lifeguards.
- Instructed swimming from tots to adults, including giving private lessons.

### **ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

- I enjoy working with wide range of age groups, meeting new people, learning various skills, and discovering new cultures, especially being immersed in local customs.
- I am passionate about extreme sports; enjoy swimming, skiing, surfing, hiking, and SCUBA diving.
- I enjoy reading autobiographies and travel literature.

**References** available upon request.