

# CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Ichthyology and  
Fisheries Science

MSc Graduate

I have a passion for the conservation and preservation of the marine and freshwater ecosystems of our world. From a young age, my passion for fishing, diving, and a variety of other outdoor hobbies led me to pursue a Master of Science degree in Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, which I graduated from in 2024. Over this time, I have developed a practical and theoretical foundation in the fields of fisheries management, ichthyology, aquaculture, aquatic resource utilisation, and complex ecological systems. I gained professional experience and exposure through a three-month consultancy project, which explored a spatial perspective to the management of tuna and tuna-like-species in the Western Indian Ocean. I am currently employed as an English Second Language teacher in Hong Kong, China. This experience has further developed my exposure to international cultural diversity, and has expanded my communicative, organizational, and time management skills. I am always open and eager to engage in new challenges and opportunities, and I am excited to further my professional development.



## Personal Details

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Westville, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

# **Curriculum Vitae**

## **Education**

### **Tertiary Education**

2019-2021: Bachelor of Science: Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Environmental Science

- Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa
- Distinction in Environmental Science
- Dean's list for academic merit in 2020

2022: Bachelor of Science Honors: Ichthyology and Fisheries Science

- Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa
- Invited to the Golden Key International Honour Society in 2022

2023-2024: Master of Science: Ichthyology and Fisheries Science

- Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa

### **Secondary Education**

2014-2018: Matric Bachelors Pass

- Westville Boys High School, Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
- 2 Distinctions: Geography and Life Orientation
- First Team and District Tennis

## **Clubs and Societies**

- Member and Treasurer of the Rhodes University Fly-Fishing Club in 2022 and 2023
- Member of the Rhodes University Canoe Club in 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Member of the Rhodes University Tennis Club in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023
- Member of the Rhodes University Volleyball Club in 2019, 2020, and 2021
- Member of the Greek Society in 2021

## **Additional Certifications and Skills**

- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL): Level 3 (120 hours)
- Padi Open Water Diver
- Ichthys Aquaponics Advanced Design Course
- South African Driver's License: Code B
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- RStudio
- Basic understanding of ArcGIS Pro (ESRI)

## **Work Experience and Community Engagement**

Monkey Tree International Group, Hong Kong, China (Sept 24 – Present, set contract)

English Second Language Teacher

Working as an English Second Language Teacher I have delivered engaging and informative lessons, tailored to learners at various proficiency levels, which has helped develop their reading, speaking, writing, and listening capabilities. During this time, I have maintained a positive and engaging learning environment that has been inclusive of learners from a range of different cultural and educational backgrounds. I have further utilized a range of different techniques, resources, and technologies for the

enhancement of learning outcomes, and have conducted student specific assessments for the evaluation of individual student progress.

References:

Tammy (Learning Centre Manager) – +852 5689 7865

Teri Vos (Liaison) – +852 9766 2779

Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Rhodes University (Dec 22 – Apr 23, set contract)

Consultant

I was tasked by the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC), Southampton, United Kingdom with compiling a policy brief, representing a spatial perspective to the management of tuna and tuna-like-species in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). I began working in December 2022, which involved collating and synthesizing data into a format that could be used to produce spatial heat maps that would ultimately represent the important spatial characteristics of tuna and tuna-like species in the WIO. Following this, I began working on the specifics regarding what maps were going to be produced with the available data, and how the policy brief would ultimately be presented. The final phase involved producing the spatial mapping illustrations that formed the basis of the policy brief, followed by the interpretation of the results. The policy brief was submitted to the NOC in April 2023.

References:

Professor Warwick Sauer – +27 82 774 1337

Dr Christopher Bova – +27 60 322 7130

Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Rhodes University (2022 and 2023)

Sampling and Laboratory Volunteer

Throughout my time as a postgraduate (Hons and Msc) student, I assisted my fellow students with several sampling excursions and laboratory work. Over the course of 2022, I assisted with sampling work on the Kariega Estuary, Eastern Cape, which involved pulling seine nets, aimed at targeting juvenile Cape Stumpnose (*Rhabdosargus holubi*). This formed part of a scientific research paper investigating Cape Stumpnoses' use of eelgrass vegetation in the Kariega Estuarine System. Following this, I assisted with the laboratory work on the same project, which involved setting up the experimental system, performing water quality checks, feeding of the fish, and performing the experimental trials. In the beginning of 2023, I assisted another fellow student with sampling work in Port Alfred, Eastern Cape.

Forming part of a small team, I was tasked with carrying 30-liter buckets containing abalone larvae to numerous preselected sites along the coastline. Following this, I assisted in acclimating and releasing the abalone larvae throughout the predetermined coastal zones. This formed part of a research project conducted through Wild Coast Abalone, East London, Eastern Cape, investigating the success of larval seeding with Abalone in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Toward the end of 2023, I assisted a Msc student with laboratory work, as part of a research project investigating the aerobic scope of farmed Dusky Kob (*Argyrosomus japonicus*). This involved several tasks including tagging of the fish, performing water quality checks, feeding of the fish, examining the health of the fish, assisting with experimental design, and, lastly, running of the experimental trials.

#### References

Christian Hempel – +27 82 302 1498

Monty Ben du Toit – +27 72 605 2008

#### SANParks: Estuarine Management Plan for the Knysna Estuary (May 2022)

##### Public Participant

I participated in a public participation workshop which was aimed at gathering insight from local stakeholders to aid in the development of a management plan for the Knysna Estuary. We were placed into small focus groups where we engaged in open discussions to identify the pressing threats and issues that currently face the Knysna Estuarine system.

#### SANParks: Species diversity assessment of the Sedgefield Estuarine System (May 2022)

##### Sampling Volunteer and Assistant

I was involved in the annual research project conducted by SANParks in the Sedgefield Estuarine system, which was aimed at assessing the species diversity present within the system. During this period, I assisted with various sampling techniques, which included both seine netting and beam trawls. Throughout this process, I aided in the identification, measuring, counting, and collecting of specimens that were captured during sampling efforts. This information was recorded and will be used in the future for the implementation of informed and updated management strategies for the Sedgefield Estuarine system.

### Martin Davies Trout Hatchery

I got valuable experience through Martin Davies by assisting him in various operations involved in his Trout Hatchery, which supports a large proportion of the Trout fishery in the Eastern Cape region. During this process I enumerated and organized juvenile trout into different size classes within the hatchery for the purpose of stocking. I also repaired and maintained fyke nets, utilized to catch trout for the spawning process. I further aided in the stocking of Thrift dam, Eastern Cape with juvenile rainbow and brown trout to maintain the regions trout fishery. I set and placed fyke nets throughout various areas of Thrift dam, Eastern cape to catch trout for the purpose of trout spawning. Following this, I was involved in the process of stripping eggs and sperm from the captured trout, which would then be reared within the trout hatchery.

Reference:

Martin Davies – +27 82 398 1088

### Lebone Center

I volunteered to take part in a project organized by the Rhodes University Canoe Club at the Lebone Centre, which is a facility aimed at providing educational support to children and families in marginalized communities in Makhanda. The project was aimed at providing a better environment for the children within the facility through the improved appearance of some of the areas within the facility. Aligning with these aims, we helped repaint various areas of the facility, with one of their storage facilities in the playground area being the main area of focus.

References:

Dana Osborn – +44 7500 090131

Karla Jaschke – +49 176 64023776

### Mazarat Animal Rescue

I Volunteered at Mazarat animal rescue center which is a facility that provides shelter and a haven for rescued animals. During this time, I helped wash and walk dogs that were being taken care of within the facility. I further helped construct various paths and walkways to improve accessibility around the facility. I additionally aided in the painting of kennels and maintenance of enclosures in which the dogs were kept.