

Dr. Alistair Dove

Vice President, Research and Conservation, Georgia Aquarium



Area of Expertise:

- Aquatic animal health
- Ecology of aquatic parasites
- Biology and conservation of whale sharks

Dr. Dove is a broadly trained marine biologist and conservationist and a leading authority on the biology of whale sharks, as well as an academically trained parasitologist. As Vice President of Research and Conservation, Dr. Dove is responsible for overseeing all research and conservation activities for Georgia Aquarium and administering collaborative partnerships with other institutions; he also supervises the staff and activities at the Georgia Aquarium Conservation Field Station near St Augustine, Florida.

Dr. Dove obtained a 1st class Honors degree in Zoology and Parasitology in 1994 from the University of Queensland, Australia. His Ph.D. studies focused on the ecology of parasites infecting invasive fish species in Australian lakes and rivers, for which he was awarded a Deans List commendation and a University Medal. After moving to the USA in 2000, Dr. Dove held positions at the Wildlife Conservation Society (New York Aquarium), Cornell University, Stony Brook University and Columbia University. During this period, he studied the impacts of climate change on the health of coastal marine life, especially lobsters, striped bass, bluefish and clams.

Dr. Dove joined the Aquarium team in 2006 as the manager of the Water Quality Lab. He transitioned to the Research and Conservation department in 2009 and helped expand it into the multifaceted, globally respected program it is today. His research interests continue on the theme of "health in aquatic animals" from individuals to ecosystems, with a current focus on the biology of whale sharks. Since 1994, he has been awarded 8 competitive research grants and has published over 50 scientific articles and several book chapters. He continues to teach through the AQUAVET program and is an adjunct faculty member at Georgia Institute of Technology (Biology), Georgia State University (Neurobiology), UGA (Anatomic Pathology), and Stony Brook University (Marine Sciences).

In addition to his research duties, Dr. Dove is a passionate scientist communicator and a compelling public speaker. He presented at [TEDxPeachtree in 2015](#), has been a contributor and associate editor for [DeepSeaNews.com](#), and actively engages the public about marine science and conservation from his two Twitter accounts [@AlistairDove](#) and [@Wheres_Domino](#).