

LYNNE JANE SHANNON

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PROFILE

Fisheries Scientist specializing in ecosystem-based management, with expertise in ecosystem modelling and the use of ecological indicators as a means of addressing ecosystem considerations in exploited marine ecosystems.

I am a marine researcher (Principal Researcher at the level of professor) at the University of Cape Town, with thirty years' experience undertaking ecological research and modelling to contribute to ecosystem-based management, and over fifteen years of postgraduate student supervision. I have constructed trophic models in the Benguela to provide an understanding of structure and functioning and changes in the marine food webs. I explore pragmatic ways in which ecosystem considerations might be incorporated into fisheries management, especially the use of ecological indicators. To undertake the supporting scientific work required for implementation of the EAF in South Africa, I established an extensive, functional network of collaboration with ecosystem and fisheries scientists from all around the world: France, Canada, Spain, UK, Norway, USA amongst others. This facilitates useful comparative studies and collaborative projects that are beneficial for the development of capacity within South Africa. I co-chaired the international working group "IndiSeas" (www.indiseas.org), evaluating effects of fishing and natural variability on marine ecosystems using suites of ecological, environmental, biodiversity and human dimension indicators in comparative approach. I am currently leading case studies in two All Atlantic Alliance (Horizon 2020) projects, viz. "Triatlas" and "Mission Atlantic", the ecosystem modelling group of the "One Ocean Hub" project and a work package in the Belmont "EXEBUS" project. I'm Co-ordinating Lead Author of Chapter 2 Visions of a sustainable world – for nature and people of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Transformative Change Assessment. I have published 154 papers (38 of which are first authored) in peer-reviewed journals, have presented well over 30 first-authored papers at scientific meetings/conferences, and am a rated researcher (class B2) by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) with a Scopus H-index of 46. In June 2022, I was awarded the Gilchrist Memorial Award "In recognition of the contributions of a distinguished scientist to marine science, to further stimulate excellence in South African marine science and to focus attention on South Africa's marine and coastal environments".