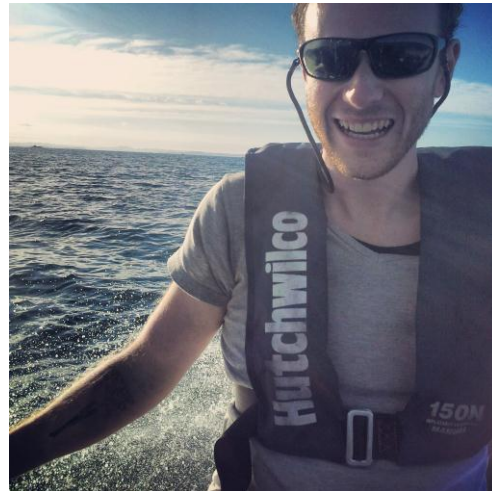


Blair Outhwaite

MSc Student

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Research Interests/Experience:

My experience primarily originates from working as a research assistant on the Hauraki Gulf Common Dolphin Catalogue Project at Massey University under PhD Student Krista Rankmore. Additionally, I have also assisted with common dolphin necropsies with Dr Karen Stockin and aided Dr Gabriela de Tezanos-Pinto with Bryde's whale photo-identification.

I am currently in my final semester of a BSc, majoring in Marine Ecology, at Massey University. For my special topic, I am undertaking a research paper which will cross match Massey University's oceanic bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) catalogue with assumed coastal bottlenose sighted off Great Barrier Island. The main research focus of my masters will be the habitat use, behaviour and acoustics of bottlenose dolphins in the absence of tourism – a case study off Great Barrier Island, Auckland.

Thesis:

The use of Great Barrier Island waters for the nationally endangered bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*).

Supervision:

Dr Karen Stockin (Massey University, Albany)
Dr Gabriela de Tezanos-Pinto (Massey University, Albany)

Study Aims:

- Identify why the waters surrounding Great Barrier Island are important for bottlenose dolphins with habitat use analysis.
- Undertake a behavioural and acoustic assessment for comparison between areas of no, minimal and high tourism densities using GBI, HG, BOI datasets
- Assess occurrence and behaviour of other apex marine predators using Great Barrier Island waters.