



## Dr Derek J Hamer

*DBMS Global Oceans: Director*

*Marine mammal bioecologist and fishing gear technologist*

### Key Skills

- Project management
- Report and journal article writing and publication
- National and international representation
- Conference and workshop presentation
- Marine mammal ecologist
- By-catch mitigation: codes of practice/gear mods.
- Managing observer programs
- Satellite tagging and population monitoring
- Spatial and population viability analysis
- Animal welfare improvement strategies
- Sub-Antarctic, remote area and at-sea data collection

### Years of Experience

- Over 20 years

### Academic Qualifications

- 2012: PhD. University of Adelaide, South Australia. Thesis *Operational interactions between marine mammals and commercial fisheries*
- 2004: Honours (1<sup>st</sup> class). Latrobe University, Victoria.
- 2002: BSc (Marine, freshwater and Antarctic Science). University of Tasmania

### Certification and Licenses

- 2013 Remote 1<sup>st</sup> Aid
- 2009 Project Management
- 2003 Master 5 (trading)
- 2002 Firearms licence
- 2001 Private pilot licence

Derek grew up in a remote Australian fishing community, seeing firsthand the challenges facing resident commercial fisheries and seal populations in the unforgiving waters of Bass Strait. These early experiences and 20 years of dedicated welfare and conservation effort has equipped Derek in assisting governments and inter-governmental agencies, fisheries associations and conservation organisations to identify, characterise and mitigate negative impacts arising when marine mammals and fisheries interact operationally. His projects are often large-scale and logistically challenging, involving remote area and at-sea fieldwork. His work has informed protected species conservation and fisheries sustainability management, and policy change underpinning both. He has worked extensively for government agencies and fisheries associations in Australia and New Zealand (and their respective sub-Antarctic territories), Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa.

Derek's work has involved developing, assessing and implementing meaningful, practical and appropriate mitigation strategies into fisheries to mitigate marine mammal by-catch and depredation. His ability to be inclusive, flexible and approachable in a multi-stakeholder context is underpinned by an ability to apply broad and practical first-hand experience. These skills have resulted in many examples of developing and assessing practical and appropriate by-catch and depredation mitigation strategies. Derek's rigorous project management and thorough interpretation and communication of results has assisted regulatory improvements in Australian fisheries and elsewhere.

His PhD research focused specifically on characterising the nature and impacts of by-catch and depredation in three commercial fisheries and on developing and assessing codes of practice, fishing gear modifications and augmentation. Over the last eight years, the projects Derek has managed have been made possible through funding commitments in excess of AUD\$2.3 million. He has published extensively in his area of expertise, with many recommendations being implemented.

Derek managed the Marine Mammal-Fisheries Interaction group at the Australian Antarctic Division during 2009-2014. He focused on the mitigation of depredation and bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries in the Australian EEZ and western central Pacific Ocean, and also worked extensively as an internal adviser to the Sustainable Fisheries Section of the Australian Government. He is currently a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC WPEB) and has regularly participated in meetings of the Marine Mammal Working Group for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). He continues to work closely with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Alaskan Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on related projects in the western central Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. Derek has also been an invited expert and contributor at numerous meetings, workshops and conferences on marine research, fishery and conservation management, and government process in the US, UK, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Samoa, Fiji, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Derek has spent literally years at sea and on remote islands collecting data, has worked on 15 marine mammal species and in 13 fisheries (comprising 8 methods). He has published 19 journal articles (8 first author) and over 20 major reports associated with characterising operational interactions and developing and assessing mitigation strategies.