

Brenton Zampatti - Fish Ecology

SARDI AQUATIC SCIENCES



Areas of expertise

Fish passage and migration ecology, flow related ecology of freshwater and estuarine fish, ecological impacts of river regulation

Countries of work experience

Australia

Overview of experience and qualifications

Brenton is an experienced aquatic ecologist who has worked for the past 15 years on freshwater and estuarine fish in south-eastern Australia. Brenton has an excellent knowledge of the biology and habitat requirements of native fish and of the potential ecological impacts of river regulation. Brenton has written over 40 publications, including journal papers, technical reports and popular articles and has presented his research work at numerous national and international conferences. Brenton has also given numerous presentations to public forums and community groups. He has lectured on fish ecology at a tertiary level and co-supervised honours and PhD students.

Brenton has extensive experience in the management of multi-disciplinary projects, including aquatic fauna surveys in remote locations in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania. Most recently Brenton has been undertaking large-scale research projects on the ecology of fishes in the Chowilla Anabranch system and the Coorong/Lower Lakes region in South Australia. Furthermore he has been a key member of a tri-state team (SA, NSW and VIC) involved in the design and implementation of a research/monitoring program for the MDBC Lake Hume to the sea fish passage project.

Prior to joining SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Brenton was employed as a senior scientist (freshwater ecology) at the Arthur Rylah Institute in Victoria. Through this role undertook research on the impact of river regulation and habitat condition on fish communities in the Murray Darling Basin and many coastal catchments. Brenton also played a key role in development of a multi-disciplinary technique for the establishment of environmental water requirements in south-eastern Australian rivers.

Brenton has extensive practical experience in numerous fish capture and tracking techniques, including electrofishing, radio telemetry and PIT tagging.

At a state and national level, Brenton provides freshwater fish ecology expertise to numerous working

groups and committees including the MDBC Fish Passage Reference Group.

Professional appointments:

2008-present: Fish Ecology Sub-program Leader, Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology Program, SARDI.
2003-2008: Senior Research Scientist, Inland Waters Program, SARDI

1997-2003: Scientist/Senior Scientist, Freshwater Ecology, Arthur Rylah Institute, Victoria

1994-1997: Scientist (Aquatic Ecology), State Water Laboratory of Victoria/Water Ecoscience.

Research and consulting

2005-present: Investigation of the impact of drought on fish assemblage structure, movement and recruitment in the Coorong.

2004-present: Investigation of fish communities in the Chowilla Anabranch system, including distribution and abundance, and migration and recruitment ecology.

2001-present: Key member in the design and execution of a tri-state fishway-monitoring program on the Murray River and Coorong Estuary.

2002: Key member in the development of a multidisciplinary peer reviewed environmental flow methodology for Victoria (FLOWS).

2002: Fish biologist on the expert panel involved in the Victorian sustainable diversion limit project.

1999-2001: Assessment of the effectiveness of rock-ramp fishways on numerous Victorian coastal rivers

1997-2002: Development of environmental flow regimes for over 10 rivers in Victoria.

Contact

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