

**Noel Vella**

Conservation Biology Research Group,  
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Dr. Noel Vella's research interests focus on the application of genetics as a tool for conservation biology and management of fish species. He has completed his PhD studies in 2013, where he looked into the evolutionary relationship and global population structure of the Bluntnose sixgill shark. In 2016, he continued his research through a post-doctoral research project focusing on genetics and its application to accurately identify local fish species and manage fisheries data collection. This was possible through successful REACH-HIGH Grant acquisition.

Noel has been undertaking genetics research at the Conservation Biology Research Group (University of Malta) since 2003, involving the use of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analyses to identify the population structure of marine species, such as the Atlantic bluefin tuna, elasmobranch species and the identification of alien and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea. In recent years, he has also been involved in genetics projects related to local terrestrial fauna.

