

# Human Impacts on Marine Ecosystems



Cameron Ainsworth  
Assistant Professor, College of Marine Science

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### How protecting our ocean's biodiversity will help humanity

The oceans are home to an incredible diversity of life and they supply humans with vital ecosystem services providing food, employment, and recreation. However, mismanagement of fisheries and the compounding effects of pollution and climate change have caused a massive loss of biodiversity, driven numerous species towards extinction, and resulted in serial depletion of species that humans catch for food. Dr. Cameron Ainsworth at the University of South Florida studies the impact that human beings have on marine ecosystems with the hope that he can influence marine policy to recognize and abate these negative effects. His research is used to inform government and conservation organizations dealing with various environmental problems including threatened species, oil impacts, food security, and climate change.

The loss of marine biodiversity is a complex issue because of the many organisms and environmental factors that interact within ecosystems. Dr. Ainsworth builds computer models of marine ecosystems representing fish, birds, mammals, turtles, and human beings to look at the whole ecosystem and how the parts work together. This unique approach allows him to collaborate with experts in many different fields and integrate their work into one product. His studies help to shape ocean policy at the state and federal level so that we may better preserve the natural environment, ensure sustainable fisheries, and help reverse a culture that caused these problems. Dr. Ainsworth's research will help us better understand the role that human beings play in the ecosystem and how effective stewardship of resources can preserve the environment for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Current...

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## AFFILIATION

 University of South Florida

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., in Resource Management and Environmental Studies, 2006, University of British Columbia
- B.S., in Marine Biology, 1997, University of British Columbia

## AWARDS

- Sloan Fellowship Award, 2013
- Outstanding Faculty Award, University of South Florida, 2014

## RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Oceanic, Oceanic

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Ainsworth's research as he studies marine ecosystems. Your donations will fund the necessary \$400K required to train new scientists. His cost effective method of using other researchers' and government agencies' data allows for incredible breakthroughs with low costs. Your support will make you an important part of taking better care of our oceans, and all of the organisms that live within or depend upon it!