



Marine biologist and PhD candidate specializing in the biodiversity and conservation of elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays). My research applies environmental DNA (eDNA) barcoding to assess taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic diversity across local, regional, and global scales. With 25+ years of teaching experience and international scientific collaboration, I combine molecular ecology, conservation biology, and science communication to advance biodiversity monitoring and management.

Franck PICHOT RODRIGUEZ (Corsica, FR)

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Skills

Research & molecular ecology

- Genetic reference database development (elasmobranchs and teleosts).
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, metabarcoding.
- Laboratory protocols: DNA extraction and amplification.
- Biodiversity metrics.
- Bioinformatics: R (biostatistics), QGIS (spatial analysis), Geneious (sequence alignment, taxonomic assignment).
- Ecological studies and conservation biology.

Research Experience

PhD candidate in Marine biologist – Montpellier University, France (2020 – Present)

- eDNA as a tool to monitor elasmobranchs biodiversity at multiple scales.
- Development and application of biodiversity indices to marine communities.
- International collaborations with research teams.
- Field sampling and molecular analyses (DNA extraction, amplification, genetic databases construction).
- Principal Investigator of two competitive grants (> €150,000).

Previous Scientific Projects

- Census of *Pinna nobilis* populations in MPAs (2000).
- Monitoring of gorgonian *Paramuricea clavata* vitality (1998).
- Colonization of submerged structures in marine environment (1996).
- Estimation of coral metabolism using flow methods (1996).

Teaching Experience

High school Teacher – Porto-Vecchio (France) (2001 – Present)

- Nationally certified Professeur agrégé hors-classe in Life and Earth sciences.
- Certified in English- and Spanish- taught science (DNL).
- 25+ years of classroom teaching and exam preparation.

Fieldwork

- Scientific diving certification (CAH2B).
- Coastal boating license.
- Marine biodiversity survey and eDNA field sampling.

Languages

- French (Native)
- Spanish (Native)
- English (C1)

Transferable skills

- Fundraising and grant acquisition (PI > €150k)
- International collaboration
- Science communication
- Teaching and student preparation for higher education

Publications (peer-reviewed)

First-author

- **F. Pichot**, D. Mouillot, JB. Juhel, A. Dalongeville, O. Adam, ... S. Manel & J. Deter (2025 - *Biodiversity and Distributions*). Mediterranean islands as refugia for elasmobranch and threatened fishes.
- **F. Pichot**, S. Manel, L. Velez, J.B. Juhel, L. Ballesta,... D. Mouillot (2025 – *Biological Conservation*). Mesophotic protected habitats as refugia for the most at-risk elasmobranch species

Co-author

- Dalongeville, A., Boulanger, E., ... **Pichot, F.**, ... Mouillot, D. (2022). Benchmarking eleven biodiversity indicators based on environmental DNA surveys: More diverse functional traits and evolutionary lineages inside marine reserves. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 59, 2803–2813
- Faure, N., Manel, S., Macé, B., Arnal, V., Guellati, N., Holon, F., Barroil A., **Pichot F.**, ... Deter J. (2023). An environmental DNA assay for the detection of Critically Endangered angel sharks (*Squatina* spp.). *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, 1– 10.

Articles (non-peer reviewed)

- **Terre sauvage** – December 2023 – We are Méditerranée studies.
- **Shark news** – Issue 06 – June 2022

Funded Projects

2021 – Assessment and monitoring of elasmobranchs biodiversity at great depths in the waters of the Marine Nature Cap Corse Park.

PI: **Franck Pichot**

Amount Awarded: **€87 897,6**

Names of Funding Organization:

- **Office de l'Environnement de la Corse**
- **Parc Marin du Cap Corse et de l'Agriate (OFB : French Office of Biodiversity).**

2020 – Assessment and monitoring of elasmobranchs biodiversity in Corsican marine protected areas.

PI: **Franck Pichot**

Amount Awarded: **€65 776,4**

Names of Funding Organization: **Parc Marin du Cap Corse et de l'Agriate (OFB: French Office of Biodiversity).**

Conference Presentations & Outreach

- **2025 – Stella Mare** – Scientific platform of the University of Corsica and CNRS (France).
- **2024 – Stella Mare** – Scientific platform of the University of Corsica and CNRS (France).
- **2023 – AIZA** – Asociación Española de Zoos y Acuarios, Palma de Gran Canaria (Spain).
- **2022 – IAC** – International Aquarium Congress, Boulogne-sur-Mer (France).
- **2022** – Shark International Conference, Valencia (Spain).
- **2022 – AIZA** – Asociación Española de Zoos y Acuarios, Barcelona (Spain).
- **2021** – Aquariums de France (UCA-association), Boulogne-sur-Mer (France).
- **2020** – World Marine Mammals Conference (**WMMC20**), Barcelona (Spain).

Collaborations for the elasmobranchs 12S genetics database

- Oceanografic – Valencia (Spain).
- Musée océanographique de Monaco (Monaco)
- Nausicáa (France)
- Aquarium Finisterrae (Spain)
- Aquarium Poema del Mar (Spain)
- Musée aquarium de Liège (Belgium)
- Burgers' Zoo (Netherlands)
- Aquarium of Barcelona (Spain)
- Planet Ocean (France)
- Océanopolis (France)
- Acuario de Sevilla (Spain)
- University of Haifa (Israel)
- University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)
- Galapagos Science Center - University of San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador)
- University of Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo (Mexico)

Field missions and collaborations

- Summer 2021- 2023: Corsica (France)
- Summer 2024: University of Costa Rica
- Summer 2024: University of San Francisco de Quito (Galapagos)