

28/05/2025

To the Oceania Chondrichthyan Society,

LETTER OF SUPPORT

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of Professor Colin Simpfendorfer's nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award. As both a former student and current colleague of Professor Simpfendorfer, I have had the unique privilege of witnessing his far-reaching and enduring contributions to the fields of Chondrichthyan biology, ecology, and conservation.

The importance of his academic achievements is reflected in a range of high-impact journal articles, technical reports, books, successful research grants, and awards. However, in my view, Professor Simpfendorfer's most impactful legacy lies in his extraordinary dedication to teaching and mentorship. Over the course of his career, he has supported and inspired hundreds of students, shaping the next generations of shark and ray scientists with patience, insight, and genuine care.

I count myself as one of the many fortunate individuals who have benefited from Professor Simpfendorfer's guidance. He has helped me grow not only as a researcher but also as a person by fostering a work environment where I felt seen, valued, and incentivised to reach my potential. The impact of his mentorship continues to resonate in my life and career, and I know many others would echo the same.

Professor Simpfendorfer embodies the values that this award seeks to honour in both professional and personal dimensions. He is a pillar of the shark and ray research community in Oceania and globally, and a role model for excellence, integrity, and dedication. With sincere admiration and gratitude, I wholeheartedly recommend his nomination.

Sincerely,

**Dr Ana Barbosa Martins | Research Scientist (Community Based Fisheries)
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Government of South Australia**

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