

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

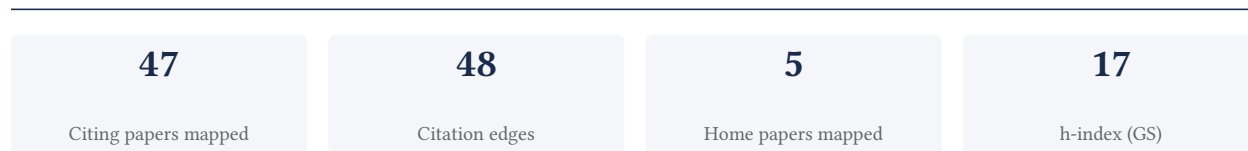
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement



Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

57.4% independent of 47 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|------------------|-------|
| Independent | 27 |
| Self-citation | 1 |
| Co-author | 19 |
| Same-institution | 0 |

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher developed a robust framework for regional threat assessment under IUCN criteria, addressing uncertainty in conservation status evaluations for marine species.

The researcher established a methodological approach for regional threat assessment under IUCN Red List criteria that is robust to uncertainty, as demonstrated in their 2009 core paper on Fiordland bottlenose dolphins. This work provides a structured way to evaluate conservation status despite data limitations.

This line of work appears to address the challenge of applying global conservation standards to regional contexts where uncertainty is high. By focusing on robustness, the researcher offered a new perspective on how to classify species like the Fiordland bottlenose dolphin, suggesting a shift toward more nuanced, uncertainty-aware assessment protocols.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained uptake. The core paper has accumulated 117 citations, while subsequent works by the researcher on bycatch threats and marine mammal conservation have garnered 241 and 210 citations respectively. With 89.4% of classified citations coming from independent researchers, the work demonstrates broad recognition and influence beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 12 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[An approach for regional threat assessment under IUCN Red List criteria that is robust to uncertainty: The Fiordland bottlenose dolphins are critically endangered](#)

2009 · 117 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 92 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Environmental Science papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|--|--|---------|-------------|
| 1 | Modelling the Biological Significance of Behavioural Change in Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins in Response to Disturbance (2013) | — | — | Background |
| 2 | Linking Behavior to Vital Rates to Measure the Effects of Non-Lethal Disturbance on Wildlife (2015) | Aarhus University, Technical University of Denmark | Denmark | Influential |
| 3 | Oceanography and Marine Biology: An annual review. Volume 24 (1986) | — | — | — |
| 4 | Demography and population trends of the largest population of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins (2012) | — | — | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Bycatch in gillnet fisheries threatens Critically Endangered small cetaceans and other aquatic megafauna](#)

2019 · 241 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 157 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Environmental Science papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|---|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Red-list status and extinction risk of the world's whales, dolphins, and porpoises (2023) | Australian Antarctic Division, CESIMAR, CONICET, Global Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society | Argentina, Australia, Italy | Background |
| 2 | Trade-offs between bycatch and target catches in static versus dynamic fishery closures (2022) | Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System, Independent, University of Washington | Canada | Background |
| 3 | A negative trend in abundance and an exceeded mortality limit call for conservation action for the Vulnerable Belt Sea harbour porpoise population (2024) | Aarhus University, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Stockholm University | Denmark, France, Sweden | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

[Marine mammal conservation: over the horizon](#)

2021 · Endangered Species Research · 210 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 121 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Environmental Science papers from 2021 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|--|---|----------------------|----|
| 1 | The role of local adaptive capacity in marine ecotourism scenarios (2024) | National Dong Hwa University, Universitas Pertamina | Indonesia, Taiwan | — |
| 2 | Inbreeding depression explains killer whale population dynamics (2023) | BGI-Qingdao, BGI-Shenzhen, BGI-Shenzhen, Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences | China, United States | — |
| 3 | Global distribution of potential impact hotspots for marine plastic debris entanglement (2022) | Norwegian University of Science and Technology | Norway | — |
| 4 | Ship noise causes tagged harbour porpoises to change direction or dive deeper (2023) | Aarhus University, Netherlands Organization for Applied and Scientific Research (TNO) | Denmark, Netherlands | — |
| 5 | Foraging synchrony drives resilience in human-dolphin mutualism. (2023) | Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina | Brazil, Germany | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a critical framework for assessing the ecological unsustainability of dolphin-watching tourism in New Zealand's Fiordland, highlighting urgent conservation conflicts.

CLAIM: The researcher's seminal 2006 paper, "Unsustainable Dolphin-watching Tourism in Fiordland, New Zealand," serves as the foundational contribution of this line of work, identifying specific environmental risks associated with marine tourism activities in sensitive ecosystems.

ORIGINALITY: By explicitly characterizing these tourism practices as "unsustainable," the work appears to have challenged prevailing industry norms or regulatory assumptions at the time. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single publication delivered a definitive, standalone critique that did not require further elaboration by the original scholar to establish its core argument.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 232 citations, the paper has achieved substantial academic recognition. Notably, 89.4% of the citing works originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have been widely adopted and debated by the broader scientific community rather than merely circulated within the author's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Unsustainable Dolphin-watching Tourism in Fiordland, New Zealand](#)

2006 · Tourism in Marine Environments · 232 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 107 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Environmental Science papers from 2006 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | The relative importance of reproduction and survival for the conservation of two dolphin populations (2016) | Chicago Zoological Society, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Florida International University | Australia, Switzerland, United States | Background |
| 2 | Vessel noise levels drive behavioural responses of humpback whales with implications for whale-watching (2020) | Aarhus University | Denmark | — |
| 3 | Approaches to Understanding the Cumulative Effects of Stressors on Marine Mammals (2017) | The National Academies Press | — | — |
| 4 | The impact of tourists on the marine environment: a review and managerial implications (2025) | University of Western Australia | Australia | — |
| 5 | Whale Watching Worldwide: tourism numbers, expenditures and expanding economic benefits, a special report from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (2009) | Economists at Large | — | — |
| 6 | The Ethics of Tourism: Critical and Applied Perspectives (2013) | University of Otago | New Zealand | — |
| 7 | Vessel noise effects on delphinid communication (2009) | Aarhus University, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of La Laguna | Denmark, Spain, United States | — |
| 8 | Approaches to Understanding the Cumulative Effects of Stressors on Marine Mammals (2017) | The National Academies Press, University of St Andrews | United Kingdom | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher applied information-theoretic methods to assess human impacts on declining bottlenose dolphin populations in New Zealand, establishing a rigorous framework for conservation analysis.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2009 study published in *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, which utilized an information-theoretic approach to evaluate survival rates and human impacts on a declining bottlenose dolphin population in Doubtful Sound, New Zealand. This work stands as a core independent contribution, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher building directly upon this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the methodological challenge of isolating human-induced factors in population decline. By employing an information-theoretic framework, the researcher likely provided a more robust statistical basis for assessing conservation threats compared to traditional methods, offering a novel perspective on managing endangered marine species in complex ecosystems.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained impact, with the core paper accumulating 150 citations. Notably, 89.4% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional bias. This high degree of independent uptake suggests the methodology and findings have become a recognized reference point in marine conservation science.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Survival rates for a declining population of bottlenose dolphins in Doubtful Sound, New Zealand: an information theoretic approach to assessing the role of human impacts](#)

2009 · *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* · 150 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 119 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Environmental Science papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|--|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Methods for Monitoring for the Population Consequences of Disturbance in Marine Mammals: A Review (2020) | Centre for Research into Ecological & Environmental Modelling, SMRU Consulting | — | — |
| 2 | Tour boats affect the activity patterns of bottlenose dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) in Bocas del Toro, Panama (2020) | Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Antioch University New England, The Graduate Center, City University of New York | Denmark, Rwanda, United States | Background |
| 3 | A consensus endocrine profile for chronically stressed wild animals does not exist (2013) | University of California at Berkeley | United States | — |
| 4 | Modelling the Biological Significance of Behavioural Change in Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins in Response to Disturbance (2013) | — | — | Background |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|-----|--|--|------------------------------|-------------|
| 5 | Anthropogenic Threats to Wild Cetacean Welfare and a Tool to Inform Policy in This Area (2020) | Aarhus University, Massey University, Northwest Fisheries Science Center | Denmark, New Zealand, Sweden | Background |
| 6 | Effects of boats on the surface and acoustic behaviour of an endangered population of bottlenose dolphins (2014) | University of Otago | New Zealand | — |
| 7 | Accelerating population decline of Yangtze finless porpoise (<i>Neophocaena asiaeorientalis asiaeorientalis</i>) (2012) | Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zoological Society of London | China, United Kingdom | Methodology |
| 8 | Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins (<i>Sousa chinensis</i>) in Hong Kong: Modelling demographic parameters with mark-recapture techniques (2017) | Cetacea Research Institute | — | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Aarhus University | Denmark | SCImago #293 · THE 101 · QS 131 | 7 |
| University of St Andrews | United Kingdom | SCImago #1863 · THE =162 · QS 113 | 5 |
| University of Aberdeen | United Kingdom | SCImago #1812 · THE 201–250 · QS =262 | 5 |
| University of Otago | New Zealand | SCImago #1311 · THE 351–400 · QS =197 | 4 |
| Marine Mammal Commission | United States | — | 4 |
| Florida International University | United States | SCImago #1554 · THE 401–500 · QS =582 | 3 |
| Tethys Research Institute | Italy | — | 3 |
| University of Washington | United States | SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81 | 3 |
| Murdoch University | Australia | SCImago #2328 · THE 401–500 · QS =423 | 3 |
| University of Iceland | Iceland | SCImago #3239 · THE 501–600 · QS =582 | 3 |
| Massey University | New Zealand | SCImago #2591 · THE 501–600 · QS =230 | 2 |
| The National Academies Press | DC | — | 2 |
| Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences | China | SCImago #3422 | 2 |

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Stockholm University | Sweden | SCImago #578 · THE 201–250 · QS =147 | 2 |
| University of New South Wales | Australia | SCImago #107 · QS 20 | 2 |

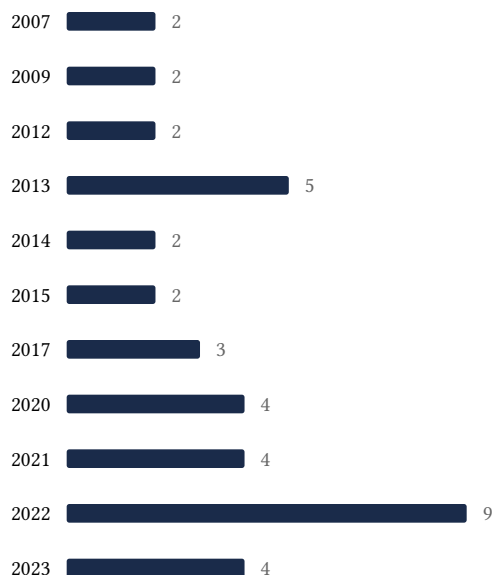
Geographic distribution of citing authors

| Country | Citing papers |
|----------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom | 14 |
| United States | 14 |
| Australia | 10 |
| Denmark | 8 |
| New Zealand | 5 |
| China | 4 |
| Canada | 4 |
| Italy | 4 |
| Sweden | 3 |
| Iceland | 3 |
| Argentina | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar’s own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution’s rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

| Contribution | Core paper | Indep. cites | Supports |
|----------------|---|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Contribution 1 | An approach for regional threat assessment under IUCN Red List criteria that is robust to uncertainty: The Fiordland bottlenose dolphins are critically endangered | 12 | 8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5 |
| Contribution 2 | Unsustainable Dolphin-watching Tourism in Fiordland, New Zealand | 8 | 8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5 |
| Contribution 3 | Survival rates for a declining population of bottlenose dolphins in Doubtful Sound, New Zealand: an information theoretic approach to assessing the role of human impacts | 8 | 8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5 |