Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

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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 the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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

47	48	5	17
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

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)	—	—	—
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 flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

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	—
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	—
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 flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

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 flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

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	—
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 flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

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 (Tursiops truncatus) 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	—
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)	—	—	—
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	—
6	Effects of boats on the surface and acoustic behaviour of an endangered population of bottlenose dolphins (2014)	University of Otago	New Zealand	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Accelerating population decline of Yangtze finless porpoise (Neophocaena asiaeorientalis asiaeorientalis) (2012)	Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zoological Society of London	China, United Kingdom	Influential
8	Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins (Sousa chinensis) 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 flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

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
Stockholm University	Sweden	SCImago #578 · THE 201–250 · QS =147	2
University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	2

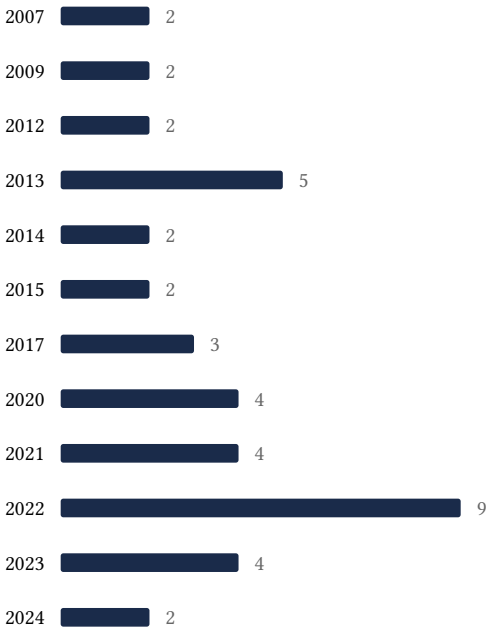
Geographic distribution of citing authors

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(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Unsustainable Dolphin-watching Tourism in Fiordland, New Zealand	8	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher
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(i)(3) — Outstanding Researcher