

# LAUREN DAVY

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Honours student 2012

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

AIMS@JCU Project Funds

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## Spatial Ecology of Two Stingray Species in a Nearshore Environment

Lauren completed her Bachelor of Science at the Australian National University majoring in Ecology and Evolution. After completing her studies, Lauren decided to pursue her interests in marine ecology at James Cook University and enrolled in an Honours course.

Little is known of the movement and habitat use of many coastal ray species. Information gained by examining the spatial ecology of rays may be important in management of populations and habitats. Lauren's project examined the spatial and temporal movement and habitat use of mangrove whiprays *Himantura granulata* and cowtail stingrays *Pastinachus atrus*. Acoustic telemetry was used to track the movement of rays in nearshore environments at Orpheus Island, Queensland.

Lauren found that the tagged rays primarily inhabited shallow intertidal areas, occupying a variety of habitats including mangroves and exhibited strong refuge seeking behaviour in mangrove areas.

Concluding that mangrove habitats appear to be important for avoiding encounters with predators and ultimately the survival of young rays in nearshore environments.

Since graduating, Lauren has continued to work in the field of marine science, joining a graduate program at the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities where she hopes to further develop her career in environmental science.

