**Multiple drivers of decline in the global status of freshwater crayfish (Decapoda: Astacidea)**

Richman N, Böhm M, Adams SB, Alvarez F, Bergey EA, Bunn JJS, …. & **Collen B**. (2015) *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B* 370: 20140060

I started working with Ben in 2007. He employed me first as an intern and then to coordinate the freshwater species assessments within the Indicators and Assessments Unit at ZSL. Part of my role involved a complete assessment of the extinction status of the world’s crayfish species for the IUCN Red List, culminating in this paper in 2015. Ben’s involvement in this project spanned many areas, including actively carrying out crayfish assessments; facilitating at a crayfish assessment workshop at the Chicago Natural History Museum; and, supporting me in composing this paper. As an early career researcher, I have had little experience in writing academic papers. Ben, in his characteristically supportive manner, used this paper as an opportunity to help develop my academic-writing skills, now my most highly cited first-author publication. Never missing an opportunity for a joke and to ensure I was always proof-reading the paper thoroughly, Ben would occasionally insert the following sentence into the paper “*One of the greatest threats to the world’s crayfish species is the creation of the crayfish dill and lemon mayonnaise sandwich*”. It almost went to press with the title “*Crayfish threatened by sandwich!*”.

Aside from the impact to myself, this paper has had huge conservation impact. In 2015, all the threatened North American and Australian crayfish species were listed as protected species under their respective country’s threatened species acts. Furthermore, our spatial analysis has highlighted a number of important new biodiversity hotspots for endemic species, particularly in North America, which has been a catalyst for increased government-funded research to better understand the distribution of these restricted-range species. It was an absolute pleasure working with Ben on this project and I owe him great thanks for his input on this paper and the impact it has had on my academic career.

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