DTU Aqua
National Institute of Aquatic Resources

Valentina Melli – Short CV

ORCID
0000-0002-4778-9331

Degrees
PhD, Technical University of Denmark (12/03/2019).
MSc *cum laude* (Marine biology), Department of biology, University of Padua, Italy (13/10/2011).
BSc *cum laude* (Biological sciences), Department of biology, University of Padua, Italy (14/07/2009).

Positions
Researcher, Section for Fisheries Technology, DTU Aqua (2021-onward).
Postdoc, Section for Fisheries Technology, DTU Aqua (2019-2021).
Research Assistant, Section for Ecosystem Based Marine Management, DTU Aqua (2018-2019).
Research Assistant, Institute for Development and Environmental Research (ISPRA), Italy (2015).
Co-founder of company Bluscienza for Science communication and environmental monitoring, Italy (2014-2015)
Fisheries Observer, ISPRA and National Reseacrh Centre (CNR), Italy (2011-2014).

Research area
Development, testing and advice on Bycatch reduction and monitoring technologies. Design of selective fishing gears that exploits species behaviour, swimming capacity and morphology to reduce bycatch.

Distinctions and awards
Carlsberg Mindelegat (2025) – Project AquaVRium

Memberships of scientific committees (last 5 years)
ICES-FAO working group on Fisheries Technology and Fish Behaviour – **Member and Group leader**
ICES working group on Size and Specis Selection – **Member**
Strategic Integrated Initiative for Early Career Scientists (SIIECS) – **Member and Topic leader**

Publications

Type of publication:	**Number**
Web of Science publications:	**26**
Citations:	**451**
h-index:	***11***
Other peer review publications:	**1**
Reports:	**9**

International conferences (last 5 years)

Type of participation:	**Number**
Contributions as first author:	8
Invited:	2
Organizing role:	3

Evaluation tasks and reviews (last 5 years)
Guest Editor for the special Research Topic “Innovations in Fishing Technology Aimed at Achieving Sustainable Fishing in Frontiers in Marine Science (2022-2023).
Co-organizer of the Food-for-thoughts series dedicated to Early Career Scientists “Rising tides: voices from the new generation of marine scientists” in the ICES journal of Marine Science (2022-2024).
Co-organizer of the first “Interdisciplinary Ocean Transformation summer school for early career scientists” sponsored by the European Marine Research Network and ICES (2023).
Member of the selection committee for the Early Career Scientist keynote talk at the ICES Annual Science Conference (2022-2023).
Regular **reviewer** for multiple high-rank journals including Fisheries Research, ICES Journal of Marine Science, Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK, Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries.
External Examiner for MSc and PhD thesis at the Artic University of Norway (2022-2023).

Advisory tasks (last 5 years)
For ICES – lead review and participation to Advice Drafting Group (ADG) of the WGBYC report (2024)
For Baltfish – consultation on Technical gears regulations (2023-2024)
For MFVM – multiple consultations on "Draft implementing rules for Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 on technical measures" and fishery-specific requests in both Baltic and North Sea.

Educational tasks at academical level (last 5 years)
BSc level - Fisheries and aquaculture (**Course responsible; 2022-** onward).
MSc level – Applied Methods in Fisheries Technology (**Course responsible; 2025**).
Fish capture technology (**co-responsible; 2021-** onward).
PhD level – Fish capture technology (**co-responsible; 2019-** onward).
Study group in Fisheries Technologies (**co-responsible; 2023-2024**)

Supervision (ongoing or finished in the last 5 years)

	Principal/main supervisor	**Co-supervisor**
Other (MSc etc.)	3	1
PhD:	NA	3

Innovation activities (last 5 years)
Development of numerous selective gears to reduce unwanted catches through industry/science partnerships with fishers, net makers (Egersund Trawl, Hampidjan, Euronete), and technology producers (Atlas Maridan, Efice Europe, SafetyNet technologies, SeaMech).

Collaboration with other stakeholders (within last 5 years)
Regular organization and participation in meetings with the fishing industry and their representatives (Danmarks fiskeriforening) to disseminate scientific results and identify needs/challenges of the industry.
International relations with project partners and research institutes.
Dissemination of scientific activities and results to the public during several festivals or events (e.g. Naturmødet, DANFISH).
Contribution to long-life education (EFCA, Skipperskolen, Fiskerskolen).

Grants (competitive) (ongoing or finished within last 5 years)
ECO-CATCH - Sustainable fisheries initiative for the Baltic and North Sea – Horizon EU program – **Coordinator** – Budget: 8.5 Million EURO; Years: 2025-2030
Marine Beacon - Monitoring and elimination of bycatch of endangered and conserved species in the NE and high seas Atlantic region – Horizon EU program – **WP leader** – Budget: 9 Million EURO; Years: 2024-2028
TEFIMO - Technologies for Ecosystem and FIsheries Monitoring – European Maritime, Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund – **Coordinator** – Budget: 5 612 192 DKK; Years: 2024-2027
UnCod – an easier and faster evaluation of gear designs to avoid cod catches in mixed species fisheries. – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – **Coordinator** – Budget: 1 983 498 DKK; Years: 2020-2023
SELEKT – Udvikling af SELEKTive redskaber og teknologier til kommercielle fiskerier (SELEKT) – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – **Work Package leader** – Budget: 14 999 204 DKK; Years: 2021-2023

Selected publications
Melli et al. "Escape panels in trawls: does placement matter when every individual contacting the panel can escape?." Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 80.5 (2023): 866-891.
Melli et al. "Predicting optimal combinations of by-catch reduction devices in trawl gears: A meta-analytical approach." *Fish and Fisheries* 21.2 (2020): 252-268.
Yochum, N., Karlsen, J. D., Senko, J. F., Wang, J. H., **Melli, V**., Luca Geraci, M., ... & Oliver, M. (2024). Guidelines for evaluating artificial light to mitigate unwanted Fisheries bycatch. *Reviews in Fisheries Science & Aquaculture*, 32(4), 612-656.
Palder, O. J., Feekings, J. P., Fraser, S., & **Melli**, V. (2023). Approaching single-species exclusion in mixed demersal trawl fisheries. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 242, 106672.
Lucchetti, A., **Melli,** V., & Brčić, J. (2023). Innovations in fishing technology aimed at achieving sustainable fishing. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 10, 1310318.