**How to get started with your personal statement:**

**Start with a brief couple of vivid sentences vivid sentence of a memory that relates to the subject you are pursuing.**

*When I was fourteen years old, my grandfather asked me to go fishing with him… I remember waking up before sunrise, leaving my warm bed, and going outside into the crisp, salty air… As we headed toward the sea, I began to see the sun peak over the horizon in brilliant pink and purple hues… For the next ten years, I saw similar sunrises as I went fishing with my grandfather every season… I learned of the techniques and instincts of a fishermen, but also the danger and politics surrounding fisheries…*

**End this paragraph with all-encompassing statement about you and your propose.**

*This childhood has led me to find propose in studying natural resource management and fisheries so that I can help fishermen, like my grandfather, as well as the environment in which they work.*

**Start explaining how you got here and how you decided to apply to the program (use personal stories, reflections, interests, education, internships, research, etc)**

*Growing up in the coastal village of Pulau Ketam, Malaysia, I was always close to the ocean… However, it was not until I began fishing that I began to understand how impressive the ocean was…. This realization motivated me to pursue a Bachelors of Science in Marine Science and Technology at the International Islamic University of Malaysia….. Here, I learned of many issues that threaten fisheries and marine environments such as climate change, overfishing, and pollution, but also advances in technology and research that have made great strides for efficient fisheries and conservation…. I applied this classroom knowledge first-hand during my internship with WWF-Malaysia where I helped conduct research on the effectiveness of new gear requirements for commercial long-lining vessels via a mixed-methods survey….. My work showed that the majority of fishermen did not like the gear changes and most did follow the new policy, but those who did have lower rates of by-catch. I later presented this work at International Fisheries Congress in Adelaide, Australia. where I met researchers from James Cook University. It was here that I learned of JCU’s MSc program in Fisheries Science and Management and knew I wanted to apply.*

*In addition to my studies, I am actively engaged in my local and global community. I volunteer as an educational educator at my local aquarium and participate in Model UN events. I am passionate about communicating science to local communities who may not understand. For example, throughout my studies, I have managed to talk with my grandfather and his friends of complex fisheries issues and have had success in suggesting ways they can make their fishery more sustainable. Likewise, I have learned to listen to fishermen to understand where their discontent for certain fishing policies comes from. It is this ability to both teach and listen that I feel is needed more in the field of fisheries.*

**End by relating back to your purpose, and the state how the program you are pursuing will help your career goals.**

*While my bachelor’s program and internship experience has contributed to my understanding for the need for proper fisheries management, I know I need further training and expertise…. To pursue a career in fisheries management, I need a graduate degree where I can leverage my personal fishing experience and academic knowledge, with a unique interdisciplinary program so that I can help both fishermen and the marine environment… This why I have chosen to apply to the Msc Fisheries Science and Management at James Cook University where there is a strong social and natural science approach and record of research, service, and leadership…. In this program I hope to learn more about the international governance and policy processes that guide fisheries as well as community-based management practices…. With this training, I am sure I can achieve my career goals of becoming a Fisheries Officer with the Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia so that both fishermen, like my grandfather, and the ocean on which we both have fished can prosper…*