



Shark & Marine Research Institute

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SHARK RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION THROUGH DATA COLLECTION AND OUTREACH

REGISTERED NPO NUMBER: 2017/151886/08

PBO REFERENCE NUMBER: 9115 064 231

Senior Marine Biologist position at Shark & Marine Research Institute.

About the Institute:

Shark & Marine Research Institute (SMRI) is a public benefit organisation NPO dedicated to the research and conservation of a variety of shark species in Gansbaai. We work in collaboration with Stellenbosch University as well as the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE).

Shark & Marine Research Institute was founded by White Shark Diving Company to further shark research and conservation through data collection, and inspiring change through educational outreach initiatives in our local coastal community.

The Institute hosts local and international students and shark lovers from all over the world who join us to learn about and contribute to shark conservation in South Africa. Students also join us for their university field work requirements. We host a maximum of 10 volunteers on our programme each month.

Our current Marine Biologist has been with us for 6 years and has developed a variety of shark research projects to monitor endemic and migratory shark populations through the implementation of scientific research projects. These projects are focused on critical baseline data collection.

Our scientists and previous masters and PhD students collaborate with Stellenbosch University and use the collected data to formulate and publish scientific papers, to help guide DFFE in their shark fisheries management and shark conservation strategies, ultimately contributing to shark conservation through research, education, and collaboration.

Position starts 1 April 2022 with 2 weeks training to commence 15 March 2022.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Minimum master's degree in marine biology or zoology with a thesis on a marine subject.

Must be a permanent resident or in possession of a valid working visa or critical skills visa.

Minimum dive master SCUBA certification.

Category D Skippers licence advantageous or experience in boat handling.

First aid and CPR.

Be familiar with white shark biology as well as the smaller endemic shark species along our coast.

Computer skills.

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS:

The position requires excellent personal and communication skills and the ability to work well within a team and under pressure.

Must be able to delegate responsibilities to the core team (Junior biologists – Interns - volunteers).

The successful candidate will be trained in all our data collection methods and will also have the freedom to propose and create new projects.

Must have a passion for sharks and previous experience working with sharks and handling smaller shark species and deployment of spaghetti tags and safe tissue sample collection.

RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION – WORK WITH JUNIOR BIOLOGISTS & INTERNS – CONSULT DR. ANDREOTTI.

Must be able to work at sea for extended periods in highly variable weather conditions.

Instruct volunteers on data collection methods during snorkelling sessions in our local kelp forest and train them on how to catch smaller sharks by hand for tagging, measuring and genetic sampling.

Capable and comfortable operating a small research vessel in variable conditions with volunteers onboard.

Must be comfortable handling sharks, fish, octopus, bait/chum and must have experience in how to properly catch, handle, revive and release sharks.

How to build, deploy, retrieve, and analyse footage from BRUVS rigs.

Experience with spaghetti (ORI) tags, genetic sampling with fin clips and sampling pole.

Experience in shore and boat-based angling with handline.

Snorkelling/free diving for data collection.

Excellent organisation, and management skills.

Responsible for proper and consistent collection of data from group to group of volunteers and interns.

Responsible for upkeep and organization of company fishing, diving, and sampling gear.

Joining volunteers on our commercial cage diving vessel to educate tourists on the sharks they see and on shark conservation.

Train volunteers in visual data collection on board these trips such as behaviour and sex and unique markings.

Measure sharks with a laser camera.

Capture dorsal fin photographs of both white sharks and bronze whaler sharks for our dorsal fin ID project where we work with the software IDentifin (Training by Dr, Sara Andreotti will be provided).

INSTITUTE COMPLIANCE

Handling all annual research permit applications and ethical clearance to ensure compliance and correct communication with relevant governmental departments.

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION – CONSULT DR. ANDREOTTI

Evaluate international student requests for projects and assist where there is benefit to the institute in terms of access to new data collected by the student and ensuring the institute is credited in successful projects.

Working with international universities to assist students in their field work experience requirements and assessments so they may obtain credits where applicable.

Work with junior biologists and interns to mentor and oversee the educational needs of all volunteers.

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION – CONSULT DR. SARA ANDREOTTI

Work with Stellenbosch University shark biologist, Dr. Sara Andreotti on data requirements.

Data analysis and assimilation to formulate research papers in collaboration with students and our head scientist for publication to raise awareness and contribute to meaningful changes in shark management and conservation.

MARKETING & MEDIA – WORK WITH JNR BIOLOGISTS, INTERNS, VOLUNTEERS & MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Ensure consistent flow of media and information to the marketing department to ensure the marketing of the programme can continue on websites and social media.

Work with the marketing and bookings department on all requests for local and international interviews and documentaries.

BUDGETING & FINANCES:

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing the float for the daily running costs of the programme and the ability to budget well is essential.

Costs need to be carefully managed and the necessary approvals must be in place for all expenditure.

Oversee the float recon.

Supply slips for all purchases to the administration department on a weekly basis to ensure the smooth running of the financial side of the institute.

This is a highly specialised position with room for growth and expansion. The salary will be negotiated according to experience and will be market related. 3-month probation period.

The successful candidate will need to relocate to Kleinbaai, accommodation and vehicle provided.

Submissions are open until the position is filled.

If you think you are suited to this position and have what it takes, please send your C.V and motivation to admin@sharkcagedive.com.