



ATLANTIC
WHITE SHARK
CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2024

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

CAREER EXPLORATION AT A
MARINE CONSERVATION
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

DATES

JUNE 3 - JULY 26 2024

EIGHT WEEK PROGRAM HOSTED IN
COLLABORATION WITH
MINORITIES IN SHARK SCIENCES



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE

As a non-profit organization working in research, public safety, and education, we provide an opportunity for fellows to gain experience in marine conservation through a holistic approach.

With a growing need for strong science communicators, our fellows gain an understanding of white shark research through shadowing members of our research team.

They then use that knowledge and understanding to work in our education department, assisting in programs where they have the opportunity to work with the public.

WHO WE ARE

Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC) supports scientific research, educates the community, and improves public safety. AWSC is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Despite the enormous scientific and public interest in white sharks, large gaps in our understanding of this species remain. Cape Cod has become an aggregation site for great white sharks, presenting a rare research opportunity.

AWSC is a small and growing organization, furthering white shark research in the North Atlantic, and communicating ongoing science to the public.

WHERE WE WORK

AWSC is located on Cape Cod, with headquarters in Chatham, MA. The Cape is an area rich in history, with miles of picturesque shore line, and an abundance of wildlife.

LEARNING & SKILL SETS

- White Shark identification practices
- Understanding of acoustic telemetry
- Boating safety and best practices
- Introduction to field work
- Science communication
- Media training
- Community outreach
- Museum curation and exhibit interpretation
- Education programming
- Non-profit management



CAREER EXPLORATION

Fellows in the AWSC program work directly alongside our team. This allows fellows to have an immersive experience in understanding the different career options available at a marine conservation non-profit. Some of the careers fellows will shadow are:

- Research Technician
- Boat Captain
- Community Educator
- Research Coordinator
- Museum Manager
- Board of Directors



SCHEDULE

WEEKS 1, 2, AND 3

The MISS Fellow will participate in an intensive three-week training program with other interns. The training includes information related to white shark research, education pedagogy, field skills, and a media relations training with a public relations firm. Throughout training, fellows will go through team-building exercises, have field trips to locations around Cape Cod, and will spend time with staff and board members.

WEEKS 4 AND 5

The MISS Fellow will spend two weeks with the AWSC Research Team. They will participate in trainings related to video processing, shark identification, and gear preparation for field season. They will also review and discuss scientific papers related to the ongoing white shark research.

WEEKS 6, 7, AND 8

The MISS Fellow will transition from working with the research team, to the education team. The individual will go through additional trainings related to education and outreach, as well as ecotourism.

After being fully immersed in research and education practices, the MISS Fellow will work with AWSC team members in our outreach programs (Shark Smart, Summer Programming, and Ecotourism) and participate in field projects with the research team.



ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

"I believe that this internship was exactly what I needed in this transitional phase of my professional career. I have plans to go to graduate school, and for the longest time that has been an abstract idea for me. I did not really know what career path I wanted to take, or how to go about picking a graduate program that was right for me. By talking to AWSC's research technicians, Megan Winton, and even Dr. Greg Skomal, I was able to receive spectacular advice on how to approach graduate school and an eventual career as a researcher. I feel more confident starting my graduate school career after all that I have learned at the AWSC this summer."

- Victoria Migneco
Intern 2020

"The work culture here at the Shark Center is second to none. As an intern, I truly feel like a respected, equal member of the team. This is not ubiquitous among organizations offering internships, as some recognize interns only as convenient laborers at best, or nuisances at worst. At AWSC, interns are essential to the daily functioning of the organization, whether in research, education, or public safety. I have appreciated the freedom with which we are able to go about our various responsibilities, with limited supervision or direction. Of course, the staff are always available and more than happy to help, but they truly allow us to be self-sufficient and learn through our independent experiences."

- Brantley Bisette
Intern 2021

FAQS

Is housing provided?

Yes! Fellows live together in a co-ed cottage in the town of Chatham. Rooms are divided by sex, and all fellows share a common living area, bathroom, and kitchen.

Is this a paid fellowship?

This fellowship provides a \$1500 stipend to the candidate as part of the partnership with MISS. MISS will also provide funding for travel.

What do I need to bring?

Fellows should come prepared to work both indoors and out. Closed-toed shoes are required, and work-appropriate activewear is suggested for day-to-day operations. A bike or car are suggested, but not required. Fellows are responsible for their own transportation, whether it be on foot, bike, or using the bus system. Fellows are allowed to use their own computer or tablet, or AWSC can provide one on loan if needed.

Can I use the fellowship towards college credit?

Absolutely! AWSC is happy to work with students to complete any necessary forms so that college credit can be earned for the fellowship experience.

Will I see white sharks?

This fellowship takes place at the start of the white shark season, so the viewing of white sharks might be a challenge. This internship is not field or research based, it is meant to provide an enriching experience during which multiple conservation career paths can be explored.