

Research Fisheries Fellowship Summer 2023

Pay Rate: \$450 per week, plus housing

Full Time: 30 hours per week, variable* (450 total)

Term: 15 weeks, May-August 2023

Location: Naples, FL; *please note that public transportation is not readily available in this location. The Reserve will do its best to accommodate students unable to secure their own transportation.*

Position Description:

This position is a 15-week, full-time opportunity to serve as the Fisheries Fellow in the Research Department at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR) in Naples, FL. The fellow is expected to work during the times they are scheduled (which may include occasional nights and weekends), always arrive on time, and successfully complete assigned tasks within a reasonable time frame. *Due to the nature of shark work, days conducting shark research may be up to 10 hours long. As such, there may be some weeks where the intern works >30 hours in that week, but other weeks would have fewer hours.

This position supports a variety of research initiatives relating to shark and fisheries sciences. Current projects the fellow will provide support on include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

1. Assist a Ph.D. student (Sara Casareto with Florida International University) in an ongoing study looking at factors that influence the behavior and decision-making of juvenile sharks in Rookery Bay; post-internship, there may be the possibility of continuing collaboration and co-authorship of data.
 - a. ~ 6 days a month to drumline and longline fish for sharks, getting experience in shark sample collection, data management, and shark handling.
 - b. ~ 3 days a month collecting prey sample species for stable isotope analysis while participating in RBNERR's trawl program.
2. Field support on RBNERR's juvenile shark monitoring program
3. Quality control and quality assurance of shark data sets and fisheries data sets
4. Assist in preliminary data analysis for projects related to shark and fisheries sciences
5. Identifying abiotic impacts on species diversity through analysis of large-scale, long-term data
6. Creating outreach materials used for volunteers participating in shark and fisheries research at Rookery Bay.
7. Assist in RBNERR's acoustic monitoring program

Deliverables:

At the end of the term, the fellow will present to RBNERR staff, volunteers, and partners their experiences during their internship and any project outcomes if they choose to focus on one. Any data collected and entered must be returned to the appropriate authorities at the end of the project.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

The prospective fellow is preferred to be majoring in biological or environmental sciences, but any individual with an interest in fisheries research is encouraged to apply. Preferred skills include the ability to follow directions, time management, communication, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Selectee must be proficient in Microsoft Office and expected to be interested in learning basic data analysis using computer software (e.g., RStudio).

Physical Requirements:

The fellow should be prepared to work both inside and outdoors and able to work for extended periods in an environment where they are exposed to hot weather, biting insects, humid conditions, and intense sun. The fellow should be able to lift up to 50 lbs and be able to work aboard boats in the marine inshore and near offshore environment.

Responsibilities:

Primary duties include assisting with field research relating to shark and fisheries sciences and translation of data into potential outreach materials. The intern will be highly encouraged to observe/participate in many other reserve-wide projects, including water quality monitoring, sea turtle monitoring, avian monitoring, vegetation surveys, small-mammal surveys, and environmental education/training to enhance their understanding of the variety of work that takes place within RBNERR boundaries. However, participation is not mandatory and will not be counted as hours worked.

Opportunities for learning and career growth:

The objective of this program is to provide the selected candidate the opportunity to improve their knowledge about coastal and estuarine ecosystems, develop their skills as an investigative researcher, gain hands-on experience handling and collecting data from several species of sharks, experience the importance of translating data into usable products, and understand communicating science to broad audiences.

Learn more about RBNERR:

Applicants are encouraged to explore <https://rookerybay.org/> to learn more about the National Estuarine Research Reserve system, and specifically about Rookery Bay. This internship falls under the Research program but will interact with other programs (e.g., Education).

Start Date: May 2023