

POSITION: Research Scientist



LOCATION: 235 Orleans Road, North Chatham, MA 02650

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION: The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC) is a non-profit organization conducting scientific research on white sharks, providing the results of that research to officials to improve beach safety practices, and educating the community to inspire conservation.

POSITION SUMMARY: The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy seeks a full-time Research Scientist to conduct and coordinate white shark research efforts along Cape Cod, Massachusetts, beginning in the Spring of 2024. Reporting to the Senior Scientist, the Research Scientist will work with AWSC's Research Team to develop and implement studies relevant to the conservation and management of this iconic species and foster relationships with key stakeholders to work towards coexistence. The Research Scientist's primary responsibility will be to conduct applied research on the ecology and behavior of white sharks in the North Atlantic, particularly off the coast of Massachusetts, including preparation of grant applications, reports, and scientific publications. Additionally, the Research Scientist will assist with the supervision and administration of all research-related programs and will assist education staff in developing outreach materials and exhibits, as well as making public presentations and speaking to the media to educate the community about local research efforts. Most work can be conducted during regular weekday hours, but some field activities and outreach events may require weekend or evening work.

RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS:

- Design, direct, and execute field-based data collection for collaborative research projects.
- Operate drones to record remote observations of white shark behavior.
- Maintain field equipment, supplies, and organize biological samples.
- Liaise with scientific collaborators on joint project logistics.
- Process data collected during field operations, conduct QA/QC, manage databases, and maintain GitHub repositories.
- Manage large video databases and post-process aerial, underwater, and tag-borne video footage.
- Identify and catalog individual white sharks from underwater video footage.
- Compile and summarize data from multiple sources and conduct analyses and data visualization for technical reports and manuscripts.
- Lead or assist in producing technical reports, manuscripts, and presentations for multiple audience types.
- Construct and manage budgets for large, multi-year projects.
- Assist with research staff and/or intern training and supervision in both the laboratory and the field.
- Assist with the incorporation of research results into AWSC's website, the 'Sharktivity' App, as well as the development of other outreach materials and social media posts related to the project.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Minimum Training & Experience: We seek a self-motivated, energetic, creative thinker with a demonstrated record of leading novel, high-impact research projects and engaging with local communities. A Ph.D. in biology, ecology, marine science, or a related field is required. Previous elasmobranch research experience is preferred but not required. Must be meticulous and attentive

to detail, with an ability to interact effectively with staff and work both independently and collaboratively in a small nonprofit environment. Candidates with experience managing and analyzing large datasets and a history of field sampling, particularly for tagging studies, are encouraged to apply. This position is only open to US Citizens.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Substantial experience managing large, multi-year datasets and related programming and analytical skills.
- Demonstrated proficiency with R, Python, or other statistical software. Experience with AD Model Builder, Stan, or Template Model Builder for hierarchical modeling is preferred.
- Experience with version control, preferably via GitHub.
- Familiarity with a variety of fisheries survey and tagging methods.
- Experience collecting, managing, and interpreting telemetry data (*i.e.* popup satellite archival transmitting tags, acoustic telemetry, accelerometer data loggers).
- Experience with image/video processing software.
- Proven experience in project completion from scientific study design to report/manuscript preparation.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, as evidenced through peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, and presentations to a variety of audiences.
- Self-motivated with the ability to operate independently.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills. This job requires work with a small research team and communication with beach managers and the public.
- Comfortable working on small boats in the field environment.
- Willing to work flexible, sometimes long hours, under physically demanding conditions.
- A valid driver's license and personal vehicle are required. Mileage for travel from office to field sites will be reimbursed at the current federal rate.
- Experience operating drones preferred.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: Salary \$72,000 per year, plus health and life insurance benefits, retirement benefit (after one year), three weeks paid vacation, twelve paid holidays, flexible schedule, and a hybrid office policy.

TO APPLY: Submit a cover letter, CV, unofficial copies of university transcripts, and contact information for three references to jobs@atlanticwhiteshark.org with the subject line "Research Scientist." Review of applications will begin February 5, 2024, and continue until the position is filled.

The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages candidates of all backgrounds to apply. Diversity of opinions, experiences, and backgrounds is a key asset.