The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands is looking for a Fisheries Scientist

Position: Junior Fisheries Scientist – Sharks
Location: Manta, Ecuador
Job Type: Full-time
Application Deadline: February 15, 2024
Duration: Four years, with the possibility of renewal based on performance and available funds

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) is recruiting a Fisheries Scientist to join our team and strengthen ongoing research on shark ecology and fisheries to inform management and conservation strategies. The successful candidate will be part of a team implementing a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

We are looking for a motivated professional committed to the conservation of sharks and the marine ecosystems of Ecuador and the Eastern Tropical Pacific in general. The research conducted by the Fisheries Scientist will help generating scientific information and knowledge that will provide stakeholders and decision-makers with technical subsidies to make informed decisions related to management and conservation in Ecuador's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), including the Galapagos Islands.

Purpose of the position

The Fisheries Scientist will join a new project that aims to improve the long-term viability of shark and ray populations in Ecuadorian waters by: 1) strengthening participatory governance in the fisheries responsible for the largest shark catches; 2) strengthening stakeholder monitoring, compliance, and enforcement capacities to combat IUU fishing in the Ecuadorian waters; and 3) collaborating with fisheries sectors to implement best fishing practices to reduce bycatch and fishing mortality of sharks and rays in Ecuador.

The Fisheries Scientist will collaborate with the development and implementation of research projects aimed at understanding the impacts of industrial and semi-industrial fisheries on oceanic shark and ray populations. As part of a team, this scientist will be involved in the collection and analysis of fisheries-dependent and independent data to describe the status of shark populations and quantify the impact of fishing pressure on the major shark species that interact with fisheries in the region.

Activities

The successful candidate will work directly with the Shark Ecology Project team and will also be required to maintain effective relationships with government entities, technical agencies and representatives of the fisheries sector.
The main responsibilities of the position are:

- Collaborate in research on the biology, ecology and population dynamics of sharks and rays, focusing on understanding the effects of fishing pressure exerted by Ecuador's main fishing fleets on shark populations.
- Maintain effective communication with government entities, technical and scientific bodies and representatives of the fisheries sector to promote cooperation and exchange of information.
- Carry out data collection activities related to shark and ray fishing in mainland Ecuador.
- Work closely with NGOs, government agencies and other stakeholders to promote sustainable fishing practices and support the implementation of best fishing practices.
- Participate in specialized workshops and working groups related to fisheries management and reducing shark fishing mortality.
- Collaborate in the training and education of public officials, fishers and other stakeholders.
- Participate in educational and public outreach initiatives related to shark conservation. Give presentations, participate in workshops, and contribute to community engagement activities.
- Collaborate with the publication of research results in scientific journals.
- Collaborate with the writing of reports and general communication of the project.

Required Profile

Minimum qualifications:

- Third-level degree in Fisheries Science, Marine Science, Natural Resource Management, Marine Biology, or a related field.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience conducting research in fisheries science, population dynamics, or fisheries resource management; preferably in the context of shark populations and/or developing countries.
- Familiarity with analysis of fishery data in the context of populations (preferably sharks and rays) and management recommendations.
- Knowledge of Ecuadorian fishing regulations and relevant international agreements.
- Experience in fieldwork, including data collection at landing ports and aboard fishing fleets.
- Ability to work independently and proactively.
- Familiarity with working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including scientists, local communities, and government agencies, to achieve common conservation goals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Spanish and intermediate English.

Desirable Qualifications

- A master's degree in Fisheries Science, Marine Biology, Fisheries Management or a related field.
- Previous experience in capturing, handling and tagging sharks.
Good analytical and quantitative skills, with knowledge in analytical software such as R and ArcGIS, or similar.

Capacity/experience in successfully organizing and carrying out workshops, meetings and other participatory methodologies with authorities and users of natural resources.

The successful candidate will need to meet most, but not necessarily all, of the above requirements. If you think you meet some of the requirements, but are highly motivated and have unique skills that make you a good fit for the role, we recommend that you apply.

**Terms of Employment**

The Fisheries Investigator will be based in Manta, Ecuador. Due to the nature of the position, the person hired will need to be flexible. The position may require field expeditions and work during the late afternoon or weekend hours.

**How to Apply**

Those interested should send the following information by email to pro.seleccion@fcdarwin.org.ec

- An up-to-date resume.
- A letter of interest (maximum 1 page), describing your interest in the position and skills that meet the minimum requirements listed above.
- The names and email addresses of two professional references.

We ask that you submit all the necessary documents in a single PDF file with the Subject: "Habla Tiburon-Fisheries Scientist Junior". If you need more information, you can contact us at the same email address listed above.