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

Position: Senior Fisheries Scientist - Sharks
Location: Galapagos, 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 have to maintain effective relationships with government entities, technical agencies and representatives of the fisheries sector.

The main responsibilities of the position are:

- Conduct scientific research to understand the effects of fishing pressure from Ecuador's major fishing fleets on shark populations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.
- Build, organize and analyze fisheries-dependent data, including information on catches, fishing effort, biological data and spatial distribution of sharks.
- Apply advanced statistical models and methods to assess the status and levels of exploitation of shark populations, identifying trends and impacts of fishing practices.
- Apply quantitative methods to estimate fishing reference points and limits to ensure the long-term viability and ecological functionality of shark populations in the region.
- Develop and implement research to evaluate the effectiveness of fishery management actions to promote the recovery of shark populations.
- Collaborate with NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable fishing practices and support the implementation of best fishing practices.
- Design and implement studies to assess shark survival as a result of improved fishing practices.
- Produce technical and scientific reports, as well as publications in scientific journals to contribute to the knowledge and management of fisheries that impact sharks in Ecuador, and to contribute to the conservation of endangered species.

Minimum Requirements

- Master's and/or PhD (desirable) in Fisheries Science, Marine Biology, Quantitative Ecology or a related field.
- Proven experience in the analysis of fishery data (preferably sharks) and application of specific statistical methods to describe stock statuses as well as to define catch limits.
- Advanced knowledge in statistical analysis software such as R and ArcGIS, or similar.
- Familiarity with the issues and challenges related to sustainable fisheries management, especially in the context of shark fisheries and fisheries in Ecuador.
- Proven track record of publishing research results in high-impact scientific journals and presentations at international conferences.
- Scientific communication skills, both oral and written, with an emphasis on disseminating results to diverse audiences.
Experience working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including scientists, local communities, and government and international agencies, to achieve common conservation goals.

Good verbal and written communication skills in Spanish and advanced English.

Desirable Qualifications

- Advanced experience in scientific diving.
- Previous experience in capturing, handling and tagging sharks.
- Knowledge and experience of marine conservation issues, particularly in the context of Eastern Tropical Pacific and shark populations.
- Capacity/experience organizing and conducting successful workshops, meetings, and other participatory methodologies with authorities and users of natural resources.

The successful candidate must 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 successful candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. The Investigator shall faithfully comply with the rules, regulations and procedure manuals of the CDF, and shall strictly observe and follow the rules and regulations set forth by the GNPD. Among the practices of this: follow authorized trails, do not remove sand, stones or elements of nature, and DO NOT introduce any foreign element to the ecosystem, such as food, plants and pets.

CDF working hours are from 07:45 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 17:15. Due to the nature of the position (fieldwork, unexpected activities), the person hired must be flexible. The position may require field expeditions and work during evenings or weekends.

CDF's Human Resources department will oversee all residency documents related to the hiring process, but will require the candidate’s assistance in obtaining the necessary legal documents. For foreigners, a work visa must be applied for and issued by the Ecuadorian government. CDF will also oversee the processing of the Galapagos residence permit for the successful candidate.

Apply

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

- An up-to-date resume.
- Letter of interest (maximum 1 page), describing your interest in the position and skills according to the minimum requirements outlined above.
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-Senior Fisheries Scientist". If you need more information, you can contact us at the same email address listed above.