



Job description – Scientific team intern Whales of Guerrero Research Project

Project Goals:

The two primary goals of the Whales of Guerrero Research Project's are:

- Contribute to a better understanding of the structure, abundance, distribution and dynamics of the migratory humpback whales and other marine mammals which visit and inhabit the region.

The data collected will

1. help the region to become a SEMARNAT-acknowledged marine mammal site, which will garner further resources to study and protect the whales
 2. identify potentially sensitive regions for humpback whales relative to shrimp boat activity and other potentially harmful anthropogenic activities
 3. contribute to the larger scientific community's understanding of the Northern Pacific Humpback Whale stock.
- Raise awareness about responsible whale watching and ecotourism practices and humpback whale behavior and biology among boat operators, tour guides, educators, residents and visitors.

Duties:

- Record and analyze field data, including: spreadsheets, audio recordings and photos under the management of the project director and scientific research team leader.
- Dorsal fin and fluke editing and sorting for humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*)
- Record and collect occurrence data on other marine mammals including four dolphin species: bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) spotted pantropical dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), rough toothed dolphin and short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*)
- Participate as naturalists during ecotourist tours during expedition programs between 01/4 – 03/20
- Present the project, marine mammal biology and behavior, fluke identification and conservation through ecotourism concepts to project supporters and participating ecotourism hotels in the region
- Assist with the development and presentation of educational programs for schools and libraries in Barra de Potosi, Juluchuca, Zihuatanejo, Ixtapa, La Majahua and Troncones
- Support local boat operators (guides and fishermen) in becoming informed naturalists and responsible boat operators around marine mammals through on-water modeling, ongoing availability for conversations, participation in guide coop meetings, and additional opportunities, as they arise.

- Conduct safe boat practice workshops with boat operators in Zihuatanejo and Barra de Potosi
- Serve as resident science expert and nature enthusiast to national and foreign adult and children on a continuous basis
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Attend daily and weekly team meetings to provide updates on their progress

There is no compensation for this position. The project will provide living accommodations during the time of the internship with host families in the village of Barra de Potosi and transportation to and from the region. The intern will be responsible for the cost of local transportation, internet and telephone and miscellaneous personal expenses during the course of their internship.

Team interns should expect to spend about 60% of their time in the field (a minimum of three days per week, at least 6 hours per day on the water or in the lighthouse), and about 40% of their time working with data, performing equipment maintenance and participating in community outreach and education efforts. Interns should be willing and able to work a minimum of 6 days per week during the 10-week field study.