



RESEARCH OFFICER - BELIZE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

MarAlliance is a dynamic, international non-profit registered in the US and the countries of Belize, Honduras, Panama and Cabo Verde that aims to explore, enable and inspire conservation action for threatened marine wildlife - notably sharks, rays, and turtles - their critical habitats, and dependent human communities. We design and conduct collaborative community-based research, education and conservation programs, and work alongside fishers and other key stakeholders of the sea. We generate essential data on megafauna populations, behavior and ecology to enable fact-based conservation and management, often in the context of established or proposed marine protected areas.

In the face of declines in many populations of marine megafauna, these species need a strong, effective and science-based voice to represent them to help dependent partners shape management and conservation strategies and action to reverse declines.

Position Summary

MarAlliance seeks a Research Officer in Belize. Our ideal candidate will be a scientist with considerable previous field and analytical experience who is passionate about the sea and the protection of large threatened marine wildlife. This position requires hands-on collection, management and analysis of scientific data for management and conservation along with strong writing, presentation, people/community, and organizational skills.

Key Values and Competencies

- Will be a highly motivated, strategic thinker who is detail-oriented and highly organised with a strong work ethic; the ability to work solo with flexible, sometimes tight schedules.
- Strong analytical and interpretive skills: ability to understand and efficiently extract key messages from articles, datasets, results, briefings, and interactions with research colleagues and project partners.
- Ability to work both independently and as a functional team member; focus on results, and respond positively to constructive feedback and professional critique; diplomacy and political sensitivity; accountability.

The Research Officer will be responsible to:

- Collect, enter, proof and perform analyses of scientific data.
- Conduct marine-based field work on small boats and in-water, often in remote locations with basic amenities.
- Assist in survey design and execution, and in data mapping and visualization.

- Contribute to the publication of scientific papers and reports; and to informative content (e.g. social media) to engage stakeholders outside the scientific community.
- Assist in maintenance of inventory and functionality of field and office equipment.
- Support the preparation and logistics of standardized monitoring of marine megafauna and associated field expeditions.
- Liaise and build relationships with MarAlliance’s fisher field associates and associated communities.
- Assist with education and outreach activities as required.
- Perform other related tasks and duties as required.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum of a Bachelor’s of Science in marine science or closely related fields.
- Previous, relevant experience in the field, especially with marine and fisheries surveys, or laboratory setting.
- Strong swimmer/snorkeler needed, comfortable working out of small boats. Person should be able to swim at least 1 km with fins, mask and snorkel.
- Strong command of the English language (both spoken and written).
- Ability to analyse, interpret and articulate scientific data and technical information.
- Must be a Belizean citizen or resident.

Assets

- Knowledge of fisheries, wildlife biology, and marine conservation issues.
- Ability to understand and communicate in Spanish.
- Knowledge of R, GIS software (ArcGIS or QGIS), VUE, SQL, or other relevant software or programming languages is highly desired.
- Diving competency and/or PADI certification.
- Creativity, patience, flexibility, and a sense of humour.
- Good communication, innovation and determination.
- Genuine passion for the mission and work of MarAlliance.

Location and Oversight

The Research Officer must be based in Belize and will work remotely, with up to 50% “in-field” time in coastal communities and marine protected areas where MarAlliance works. The Research Officer will report to the Belize Country Coordinator.

Duration

The position is contractual and available for 10 months with possibility of renewal.

How to apply

Submit a resume and cover letter **by the 20th of February 2021** to info@maralliance.org with “Research Officer” and your last name in the title of both documents **and** in the subject line of your email.