Zavora Marine Lab Internship – 2016

Zavora Marine Lab (ZML) is currently looking for science students to assist in our research projects in 2016. We would appreciate your support to kindly forward this email for potential candidates. Interns are welcome to participate in our traditional marine science internship to gain a wide range of experience in marine science or to develop their own project. This year we have three students who successfully completed their thesis (1 master, 2 monograph) with us in partnership with their own University. One has already been accepted for publication.

After the resounding success of our July to September 2015 marine science and diving internship program I would like to let you know a little about our program for 2016 and how it can be of great benefit to your students.

We are based in Praia de Zavora, Southern Mozambique, where we founded Zavora Marine Lab. in 2009. Our purpose built facility has wet and dry lab’s, activities/conference room, accommodation for up to 6 students, ample kitchen/living space and is a 5 minute walk from the beach. We work in conjunction with Mozdivers, who pioneered diving in the region and know the area intimately.

Our internships typically last for 1 month, (though many students elect to stay longer) and include up to 25 scuba dives where students will learn how to safely and efficiently collect and analyse data. The group is kept small, (max 6 students) which enables us to provide an outstanding quality of service. Non-divers and inexperienced divers can also participate by combining any dive courses (from Open Water to any level of continuing education) with the internship.

Our on-going research projects include:

- Manta ray population – using photo identification
- Humpback whale population and behavioural study
- Nudibranch population and taxonomy
- Artificial Reef monitoring including training in fish census and benthos assessment
- Seahorse population (global monitoring program)
- Whaleshark population (in conjunction with Marine Megafauna)
- Turtle population (in conjunction with “TartarugasparaAmanhã”)

Our team is led by the Marine Science PhD candidate YaraTibirica (University of Cadiz), who is currently writing her doctoral thesis on Nudipleura Diversity. Yara is the founder of Zavora Marine Lab and The Association for Costal Conservation of Mozambique (ACCM).

In charge of diving operations and safety is Jon Wright, an IANTD mixed gas OC/CCR instructor trainer and PADI instructor with 24 years of diving and skippering experience. Jon is the founder of Mozdivers and a founder member of the ACCM.

The summer break for students is an ideal time for them to participate in our internship program as it is the peak period for our migratory humpback whale population as well as being an excellent time of year to see both Manta birostris and Manta alfredi on our reefs. The Synchronized Whales Survey in East Africa has shown, for the second year in a row, that Zavora is a hotspot for humpback whales, recording the highest number of sightings in a single day with 236 whales!

We do also run internships throughout the rest of the year, contact us for availability.
Please see our attached brochure for more information on our internships or visit: http://www.zavoralab.com/
General information on the area and the diving can be found on the Mozdivers website here: http://mozdivers.com/