

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WHALE SHARK RESEARCH AT SODWANA BAY, SOUTH AFRICA, FOR YEAR OF 2009.

Intern positions at Oceans Research, previously known as the South African Marine Predator Lab (SAMPLA), will be available throughout the year starting in August 2009.

Applications from all undergraduate and graduate students qualified, or studying, in the field of science will be readily considered (open water diving qualification is a requirement). Participants will be required to join the program for a minimum of 1 month, but preferably for two months or more.

For further information on the intern program and application forms please contact program administrator Lezanne Brits (info@oceans-research.com). Information on the research that Oceans Research scientists are conducting can be viewed on Oceans Research website: www.oceans-research.com

Interns will actively participate in the institute's whale shark, and other marine predator research programs. Amongst others, aims of the whale shark project include:

- *Determining the spatial and foraging ecology of whale sharks in the Sodwana Bay region.*
- *Identifying behaviours that can be utilized as measurement parameters to assess the impact of Interactive Marine Experiences (IME's).*
- *Creating a standard South Africa photo identification base to contribute to international efforts.*
- *Investigating their population dynamics via microlight surveys*
- *Investigating their physiology by studying naturally stranded carcasses*

Interns will be hosted by scientists from Oceans Research and their collaborating partners (Sharklife, University of Pretoria, Whale Shark Watch). All conducted research is permitted by the South African governmental department, Marine and Coastal Management, and supported by local universities.

Yours Faithfully

Oceans Research

www.oceans-research.com

