

Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles

21st INTERNATIONAL IN-WATER COURSE

August 13 - 25, 2017

Offered by:



This field course, hosted by the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo, provides an introduction to the biology of marine turtles with an emphasis on topics relevant to marine turtle conservation on an international scale.

Course Leaders:

Jennifer Gray

Robert Hardy

Dr. Anne Meylan

Dr. Peter Meylan

Dr. Gaëlle Roth

This intensive, 2-week course provides participants with an introduction to marine turtle biology and conservation and practical experience with in-water turtle research.

Students will participate in the Bermuda Turtle Project (BTP), which is a joint project of the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo and the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Its mission is to study the juvenile marine turtles that inhabit the near-shore waters around Bermuda. Drs. Anne and Peter Meylan serve as principal investigators for the project. Students will assist with the in-water capture of turtles, tagging and data collection, and learn about current sea turtle research techniques, including satellite telemetry. In addition, a hands-on overview of sea turtle anatomy will be gained during a necropsy session led by Dr. Gaëlle Roth DVM.

Students will engage daily in a group discussion of the papers included in the course reading list, and participants will be expected to lead one class discussion. Weather permitting, these talks will take place on board the research vessel, RV Endurance, on route to/from the day's sampling site. Topics include: life history, feeding biology, physiology, reproduction, migration, conservation genetics, threats and conservation options and solutions.

Information about other sea turtle research projects will be exchanged, and students will have an opportunity to discuss issues or methods of particular relevance to their home country or turtle conservation project.

Enrollment is limited to 10 students, ages 18 and older. While applications are accepted from all over the world, priority will be given to those from the Caribbean region or those who are in the best position to implement the methods learned during the course.

The course is physically demanding; fieldwork is scheduled Monday through Friday (8.00am – 5.00pm, with occasional evening classes if necessary), for both weeks, with the necropsy session planned for the weekend in between. Students must be strong swimmers, able to swim two or more miles a day (with fins and snorkel gear), and be comfortable diving to depths of 20 feet to retrieve turtles from the net. Each net deployment can last up to two hours, and there can be up to three sets per day.

There is no tuition charged for the course but applicants must cover transportation, lodging and food. A small number of scholarships are available. All participants will be expected to provide their own snorkeling gear.

The course application deadline is April 14, 2017

Application forms are available at the course website & Bermuda Turtle Project website

Please send all enquiries to: jmermaidgray@gmail.com

www.conserveturtles.org/bermuda

http://home.eckerd.edu/~meylanpa/E&E-BI111/Meylan_Web_Site/BTPcoursePage.html

