Field Research Assistant II

Ocean Associates Inc. is seeking two candidates who will provide professional support services to the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center to conduct fieldwork in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. This year NMFS will be undertaking efforts to remove predatory Galapagos sharks at Hawaiian monk seal pupping sites at French Frigate Shoals. Assistants will capture sharks using a variety of techniques, mitigate monk seal mortality, collect biological samples and produce written documents in support of monk seal research efforts.

The contractor shall:

- Participate in planning shark fishing activities at French Frigate Shoals.
- Undergo training to become certified in NOAA Small Boat operations.
- Participate in monk seal field camp activities at French Frigate Shoals for all or part of the period between June 10 and Aug 18. Duties include assist in field camp preparations, daily maintenance and operation of field camp along with the return, repair, and clean-up of field equipment and supplies at the end of camp
- Monitor and document Galapagos shark activity near monk seal pupping sites
- Be responsible for targeted fishing and lethal removal of up to 20 Galapagos sharks
- Ensure removal activities comply with Native Hawaiian cultural guidelines as dictated by a Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner
- Independently conduct small boat operations in a shallow dynamic reef environment
- Be responsible for ensuring all fishing and boating activities are conducted safely and follow established standard operating procedures
- Be required to camp periodically on small remote islets
- Accomplish duties while striving to minimize the impact of presence and activities on wildlife including seals, turtles, birds, as well as non-target sharks and fish
- Assist the Hawaiian monk seal team with research efforts if required
- Will adhere to all rules, regulations and permit requirements applicable to this project in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Document fishing activities and complete reports summarizing those activities

Place of Performance: The Contractor will work remotely at French Frigate Shoals, on the NOAA Research Vessel Oscar Elton Sette and at NMFS Facilities in Honolulu. Deployment in the NWHI will be from approximately 6/10/2010 – 8/23/2010

Period of Performance: 5/24/2010 – 8/30/2010

Minimum experience or background requirements

- High School Diploma or equivalent.
• One to three (1-3) years of shark fishing or shark research experience with proven ability to capture and handle large sharks utilizing hand lines, drum lines and long line bottom sets.
• Prior experience shark fishing in Hawaiian waters with ability to identify near-shore shark species. Experience working in sensitive wildlife areas.
• Ability to construct, deploy and maintain fishing gear.
• Good communication and team skills.
• Good data collection skills with ability to perform basic data entry.
• Ability to swim.
• Ability to work in remote locations for extended periods of time.
• Must be able to work long hours in the sun.
• Must be able to obtain medical clearance for embarking/working on NOAA research vessels or other appropriate vessels which includes providing proof of required immunizations and/or obtaining the necessary immunizations as required by NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations.
• Must meet the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration security requirements for working in a federal facility that includes being fingerprinted and having a federal background check performed.
• Must be able to pass pre-deployment training requirements including field medical training before being deployed to remote islands.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please email your resume to Jobs@OceanAssoc.com

Please use “5010 FFS shark” as the subject line.

Review of applications will begin May 6, 2010 and continue until the position is filled.