



Master's Internship – 2024

Preliminary analysis of cetacean diversity, distribution, threats and movements in the West Indies, link with marine protected areas and conservation issues.

About CCS

The Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) is an NGO created by locals of Lesser Antilles, recognized as being of general interest, which aims to conserve cetaceans in the Caribbean. This NGO is a French association under the law of 1901, based in Martinique. Its objectives are to promote cooperation between the islands. To set up research programs to collect missing data. To use these data to support the development of conservation measures adapted and effective with each territory. Raise awareness of the richness and fragility of cetaceans. This is currently the only organization dedicated to cetacean conservation throughout the West Indies.

The Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) - Presentation video

Context and objective

Several sanctuaries, marine parks and marine protected areas exist, such as the PNRM Prêcheur Reserve in Martinique, the Agoa Sanctuary and the Yarari Sanctuary. At the scale of the Lesser Antilles, these areas are discontinuous, whereas West Indian waters are home to migratory species such as the humpback whale, and dolphin species capable of moving over greater distances than these protected areas.

The aim of this internship is to study the diversity, distribution, threats and movements of cetaceans in the Lesser Antilles. The work carried out should enable us to provide an inventory of the species present around the different islands, the issues linked to their movements and the threats they face. This will enable us to identify conservation needs at the scale of the Caribbean arc, and the role that the various regional players can play in this respect. To do this, the trainee will use the other surveys already carried out by the CCS, as well as the

three years of standardized regional monitoring carried out under the Ti Whale An Nou program.

Missions

This is a mainly computer-based internship involving the use of a large dataset. The project is suitable for a Master's student with the possibility of completing an internship lasting more than 5 months.

- Review of knowledge about protected marine areas, cetaceans and threats in the West Indies.
- Creating a species distribution model.
- Analysis of photo-identification data.
- Scientific field expedition to acquire additional data (depending on time remaining after analysis and editing).
- Ongoing support for various CCS actions.

Supervising

The internship will be supervised by Jeffrey Bernus (CCS director and marine biology engineer), with support from Valentin Teillard and Lucas Bernier (CCS marine biology engineer)

Work conditions

The internship will last 5 to 6 months between January and August and will take place in Martinique at the Caribbean Cetacean Society's offices.

Applicant profile

- Knowledge of the Lesser Antilles region.
- Knowledge of statistics applied to R software.
- Autonomy
- Rigor
- Experience in the use of geographic information systems (GIS) preferred.
- Conservation and cetacean interest.
- Good team spirit, strong work motivation and positive attitude.

Applications

Send your CV and covering letter in a single PDF file with the following nomenclature 2024INTERNSHIP_MPA_LastName_FirstName, to Jeffrey.bernus@ccs-ngo.com and contact@ccs-ngo.com, before November 15, 2023.

- Please include in your cover letter: A justification of why you are a good candidate for this project. What you expect to gain by participating in this project. Your long-term goal. Your experience in the Caribbean
- If your application is successful, you will be invited to an interview. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the internship.