



Research Master Internship – 2025-2026

Internship Location: Martinique, French West Indies
Duration: 6 months
Application Deadline: August 20th, 2025
Desired Start Date: September 15th, 2025

This internship will be hosted jointly by WWF and the Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS), two organizations with a longstanding partnership dedicated to the conservation of cetaceans in the Caribbean.

Context and Host Organization

The Caribbean Cetacean Society is a non-profit organization committed to the protection of whales and dolphins throughout the region. Its mission is to foster inter-island cooperation, conduct research to address critical data gaps, and use scientific evidence to inform effective, locally adapted conservation measures. CCS also works to raise public awareness about the ecological significance and vulnerability of cetaceans.

Through this collaboration, WWF-NL supports efforts to advance cetacean research, raise awareness of the need for their protection, and promote regional cooperation to achieve shared conservation goals. These actions contribute to WWF's broader objectives in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), including the creation of Blue Corridors, the expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and the expansion and management of the Yarari Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the Dutch Caribbean.

As part of this shared commitment, we are seeking two interns to support our work in strengthening relationships with local marine stakeholders and assisting in the collection of vital information to ensure the long-term protection of Caribbean cetaceans.

CCS Presentation Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBkyj9gwIUc&t=3s>

Internship 2: Preliminary study of the diversity, distribution, movements, and habitat use of cetaceans in the ABC-islands.

As part of this internship, you will contribute to the scientific analysis of data collected during our standardized research expeditions across the ABC Islands. The goal is to produce results that will contribute to a peer-reviewed publication focusing on:

- Species diversity and distribution,
- Individual movements and sighting rates,
- Identified threats, and

- Evaluation of our standardized research protocol.

This is a data-driven, research-focused internship, ideal for Master's students with an interest in marine conservation and spatial ecology. You will work with a multidisciplinary team to analyze data such as visual sightings, photo-identification records, and acoustic recordings collected between 2022 and 2025. Tasks include:

- Conducting a literature review on cetacean studies in the ABC Islands;
- Creating species distribution models using CCS datasets;
- Analyzing photo-identification and acoustic data to assess threats and individual movements
- Participating in a scientific field expedition (tentative, based on timeline and performance);
- Supporting ongoing CCS activities, outreach, and research.

If scheduling allows, the selected intern will participate in CCS's ABC Islands expedition in October, followed by a field visit to Bonaire, before continuing the internship at CCS headquarters in Martinique.

Supervising

The internship will be supervised by Stacey Mac Donald (CCS strategy and program manager, PhD), with support from Jeffrey Bernus (CCS director and marine biologist). The intern will also collaborate with Lucas Bernier and Louise Simon, project managers at CCS.

General information:

- Duration: **6 months**, ideally from **September to February**, starting date can be discussed.
- The internship will take place at the organization's office in Sainte-Luce, Martinique. NOTE: the official language in Martinique is French, but English and Dutch are spoken at the office.
- Life in Martinique is expensive; it is recommended to research this when considering the application
- Travel opportunities: Fieldwork in Aruba or Bonaire or Curaçao (tentative)
- WWF-NL provides a student stipend of 550 Euros/month.
- Driver's license (Permis B) recommended

Applicant profile:

We are looking for a motivated and independent student with the following profile:

- Research Master student
- Familiarity with the ABC islands or wider Caribbean region
- Strong knowledge of R programming for statistical analysis

- Experience with photo-identification and large dataset analysis
- Ideally: proficiency with GIS software (QGIS or equivalent)
- Interest in marine mammal conservation
- Rigor, autonomy, and team spirit are essential

Benefits:

As an intern within the Caribbean Cetacean Society, you will benefit from the following advantages:

- Training and supervision by an experienced team in marine conservation
- Opportunity to contribute to cetacean preservation projects and marine ecosystem protection
- Acquisition of valuable skills in scientific research, conservation, and environmental awareness
- Possibility to participate in scientific expeditions for cetacean observation
- Gain impactful professional experience for your future career
- Monthly stipend of 550,- EUROS based on fulltime basis.

Application Process:

Send your **CV and cover letter** in a single **PDF file**, using the following filename format:
2025INTERNSHIP_BON_LastName_FirstName.pdf

Please also fill out the following form to validate your application:

<https://forms.gle/zEybaQ4emHCVeB3a8>

Submit your application by August 20, 2025. Email to:

- stacey.macdonald@ccs-ngo.com
- contact@ccs-ngo.com

Your **cover letter** must include:

- Why you are a strong fit for this position
- What you hope to gain from the internship
- Your long-term goals in conservation or research
- Any previous experience in the Caribbean

Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. For any questions, feel free to reach out to us at the emails above.