Job title
Artificial Reef Restoration and Monitoring Intern

Company
Ocean Rescue Alliance International

Job location
Hollywood, FL (Hybrid work options possible)

Pay and Benefits
Stipend negotiable

Job Type
internship

Job Description:

Ocean Rescue Alliance International (ORAI) (https://www.oceanrescuealliance.org/) seeks a scientist with, or in pursuit of, a master's or PhD in a marine science field for a half to full year internship (with the option to extend), monitoring benthic recruitment, conducting research, and outplanting coral on an artificial reef site set for deployment in Hollywood Florida in May 2025. The selected individual will get unparalleled access to the fast-growing artificial reef and habitat restoration industry with critical, real-world experience in coral restoration and ecological monitoring. A modest stipend is available. ORAI will also support the intern for additional compensation through grant writing. ORAI will also work with the intern to meet any educational requirements or to use the internship to fulfill course obligations.

The ideal candidate has a background in marine science, is an AAUS scientific diver, has worked with Caribbean fish and coral, and has experience with related statistical analysis. The main project involves monitoring benthic recruitment and fish abundance on artificial reefs and adjacent neighboring reefs/hardbottom. Additional work may include growing (in a newly established marine lab) and outplanting octocorals and monitoring success. The intern will be expected to publish results in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Other opportunities within the organization are possible, depending on need and the intern's interest. These may include, but are not limited to, hydrodynamic

modeling and analysis, laboratory experimentation, educational outreach, grant writing, and more. *Please include a cover letter and cv/resume with application material.*

Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in marine science. Alternative experience, education and training may be considered in lieu of degree.
- Masters or PhD in marine science (or currently seeking degree).
- Experience conducting coral reef research, ecological monitoring, and/or coral restoration
- AAUS diver preferred
- Ability to identify Caribbean reef benthic species and fish
- Experience conducting statistical analysis (R, Python, etc.)
- Scientific publication experience preferred but not required
- Passion for coral reefs and marine restoration.
- Publication record in peer-reviewed journals is preferred but not required.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Background research on best practices for equivalent artificial reef monitoring
- Develop and lead monitoring (benthic recruitment, biodiversity, outplant success, and fish usage) of artificial reefs and adjacent hardbottom community
- Help with rearing and study of octocoral for outplanting
- Rigorously documenting all results
- Submitting research with the team in a peer-reviewed scientific journal (required)
- Development of a related research project is possible

How to Apply and Additional Information:

Please submit your resume or CV, cover letter, and any relevant work samples (e.g., research papers, survey analysis) to this link or email directly to the addresses below. In your cover letter, please explain your interest in the intersection of marine restoration and highlight your experience with coral reef monitoring and research. Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. Submit by April 8, 2025, to ensure review. A stipend is negotiable depending on duration of work, applications from ORAI and intern for funding, and available funds. For more information, contact info@oceanrescuealliance.org or d.weinstein@oceanrescuealliance.org.

About Ocean Rescue Alliance International (ORAI):

ORAI is a marine conservation and restoration non-profit organization (NPO) based in Florida that implements innovative techniques to restore our marine environments. ORAI's work involves the creation of artificial reefs designed to incorporate art, innovative designs, and safe materials to enhance marine habitats, protect coastlines

and provide a unique diving location. Our research investigates artificial design improvements, coastal protection with wave reduction modules, coral restoration, oyster restoration, mangrove restoration, seawall enchantments, fish population dynamics & recruitment to contribute to effective restoration. Our artistically crafted reefs enable every individual the opportunity to create an eternal reef for their loved one or company. Art themed reefs or additions connect local community history and culture and broaden client audience while creating a lasting memory on the ocean floor that will help restore our marine ecosystems. Our education and citizen science (Coral Rangers) programs seek to empower and inspire our future generations and engage local communities. Ultimately, our goal is to spread awareness and create marine habitats that will last for generations to come.