



INTERNATIONAL IN-WATER COURSE

BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES

AUGUST 1-AUGUST 12 2005

OFFERED BY: THE BERMUDA AQUARIUM, MUSEUM AND
ZOO

TAUGHT BY: DR. PETER MEYLAN. DR. ANNE MEYLAN
AND JENNIFER GRAY

This course will provide an introduction to the biology of marine turtles with an emphasis on those topics that are relevant to marine turtle conservation on an international scale. A general life history model will be used as a framework for the study of the complex lives of these highly migratory organisms. Each stage of the life cycle will be reviewed and interspecific comparisons made. Consideration of the impact of humans on each stage will allow a complete treatment of conservation issues in a biological context.

An important component of the course is the practical experience of participating in the ongoing Bermuda Turtle Project, an in-water study begun in 1968, for which Professor Peter Meylan and his wife Dr. Anne Meylan currently serve as principal investigators. Students will assist with the capture, tagging and data collection and will be exposed to the current findings and techniques of sea turtle research. Nearly all classes are held on board R.V. Calamus, a Bermuda Government research vessel.

Course readings from the primary literature on sea turtles will be

made available to all students and will be the subject of group discussions. Topics included are: the different phases of the life history, feeding biology, physiology, reproduction, migration conservation genetics, threats, conservation options and sea turtles of Bermuda.

An overview of sea turtle anatomy will be gained during a necropsy session on stranded sea turtle specimens. Participants will be expected to lead one discussion and will have the opportunity to discuss issues and methods of particular relevance to their home country. Information about other sea turtle research projects in the Caribbean will be exchanged.

Participants are drawn from all over the world with priority offered to those from the Caribbean and those who are in a position to implement techniques learned. Enrolment will be limited to 10 students. All students must attend all sampling field sessions and lectures scheduled.

Students should be strong swimmers, and will have to provide their own snorkelling gear and refreshments including lunch. All participants should anticipate making a full commitment to the

course for the period from August 1 through August 12, 2005. Fieldwork is scheduled Monday through Friday, the necropsy session will take place on a weekend.

Participants will be required to assemble daily at the Fisheries Coney Island dock at 8:00 AM. Lectures and discussions will take place on board Calamus while en route to and from netting sites.

Return to shore may be anywhere from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Discussions of course topics may take place in a classroom if weather or other circumstances prevent fieldwork on a given day. If we have insufficient time for classroom meetings during the daytime, we will schedule evening lectures.

APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 1ST
2005

For an introduction to the biology of sea turtles and the Bermuda Turtle Project, see our web site at <<http://www.cccturtle.org/bermuda>>

Application forms are available from Jennifer Gray at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ)

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