

## Sea Turtle Conservation & Nighttime Tagging Internship

Bald Head Island Conservancy

Monday, May 12 - Friday, August 15, 2025



The Bald Head Island Conservancy's Sea Turtle Conservation Program invites passionate undergraduate juniors, seniors, or recent graduates with fieldwork experience to apply for our Sea Turtle Conservation & Nighttime Tagging Internship. This unique opportunity allows interns to make an impact on endangered species conservation and play a critical role in one of North Carolina's only saturation tagging programs. Gain hands-on experience in sea turtle conservation, education, and research while contributing to a legacy of environmental stewardship. Founded in 1983 in collaboration with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service, our program is dedicated to protecting sea turtles, primarily loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*) and greens (*Chelonia mydas*), on Bald Head Island.

As a Sea Turtle Intern, your primary duties are patrolling Bald Head Island's beaches via Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) or on foot in search of nesting sea turtles. Duties will also include supporting on-going scientific research, engaging in public education, and assisting with nonprofit operations. This is a competitive position that is mentally and physically challenging, as interns will be working long hours through inclement weather and buggy conditions.

### Position Responsibilities

- Conduct a mixture of dawn & night patrols
- Apply flipper tags & Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags to nesting sea turtles
- Assist in the collection & management of biological samples & data
- Relocate imperiled nests & assess nest success
- Maintain field equipment & vehicles
- Complete a short project to enhance our research mission
- Educate the public about sea turtle ecology & beach practices
- Assist in sea turtle stranding response and necropsies
- Support non-profit operations

### Qualifications

- Rising junior, senior or recent graduate majoring in natural sciences
- Strong communication skills & comfort with diverse audiences
- Proficiency with MS Office, Google Suite, & good handwriting
- Ability to work independently & work closely within a small team
- Resilience under challenging conditions (e.g., long hours, inclement weather)
- Ability to remain alert & focused while driving long overnight hours
- Valid U.S. Driver's License, be able to lift 40 lbs & a clear background check

**Dates:** Monday, May 12 - Friday, August 15, 2025

**Schedule:** 9 pm–7 am (**nocturnal**), 4 nights on, 1 night off; 50-60 hrs per week. Weekend/Holiday work is required.

**Compensation:** \$600/month stipend (pre-tax), shared housing, utilities, internet, parking, and weekly ferry ticket.

More details at <https://bhic.org/who-we-are/internship-program/>.

### How to Apply

If you're inspired to make a difference, email your cover letter, resume, and three references (**as a single PDF**) to [intern@bhic.org](mailto:intern@bhic.org) with the subject line *Sea Turtle Conservation & Nighttime Tagging Internship*. Applications are due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

Questions? Contact Paul Hillbrand, Sea Turtle Biologist, at [seaturtle@bhic.org](mailto:seaturtle@bhic.org).

**Mission of the Bald Head Island Conservancy**

We Discover, Learn, Conserve and Preserve