

**Position Announcement – Postdoctoral Research Fellow –  
Elasmobranch vulnerability assessment in the north and central Pacific**

**Application Deadline:** July 30, 2022

**Summary:**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, TNC creates innovative, on-the-ground solutions to the world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. Working in 76 countries, TNC uses a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego is a world-renowned center for earth, planetary, oceanographic, biological, and atmospheric science, and is committed to academic excellence and diversity within its student body, staff, and approximately 200 principal investigators (<http://diversity.ucsd.edu>).

A postdoctoral research position is available beginning immediately in association with TNC of California and Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). Based at SIO, the researcher will lead a project aimed at understanding the threat and vulnerability landscape of elasmobranchs in the north and central Pacific. The researcher will coordinate a collaborative group of scientists and fisheries managers to perform a vulnerability assessment that evaluates the top threats to elasmobranchs in the region, integrates exposure and sensitivity to these threats, and explores prospects for at-risk species recovery under a range of management scenarios (e.g., bycatch reduction measures).

**Responsibilities:**

The researcher will lead a collaborative vulnerability assessment for elasmobranchs, particularly among presumed vulnerable/threatened species as well as species involved in high-volume catch/bycatch. The goals of this research are to: 1) identify species, fisheries, and regions at greatest risk and in most need of rebuilding/recovery efforts, 2) illuminate regional and species-specific data limitations that currently obfuscate population impacts and conservation needs, and 3) identify current challenges and potential opportunities for management/conservation actions, such as bycatch reduction. The design of the vulnerability assessment will be coordinated between team members from multiple agencies/institutions (e.g., TNC, SIO, NOAA, IATTC, etc.), and will likely include multiple species, regions, fisheries, and regulatory structures.

**Required Qualifications:**

The position requires a PhD in marine sciences, fisheries science, marine conservation, or a related discipline. The ideal applicant has strong quantitative skills, experience working with large/disparate data sets, knowledge of north/central Pacific RFMOs, experience with catch/bycatch analyses, fisheries/population modeling, and/or spatial analysis. The applicant should have a strong record of publication in peer reviewed journals and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively while leading/convening a group of scientists.

**Location:**

The postdoctoral researcher will be based at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), with some remote work flexibility. The primary advisor will be Dr. [Brice Semmens](#), with joint supervision by TNC Senior Fisheries Scientist, Dr. [Lyall Bellquist](#).

**Start and End Dates:**

This position is a 100% time appointment, ideally from Aug, 2022 - July, 2023, but start/end dates are flexible.

**Salary:**

Commensurate with experience, and includes benefits for a one-year appointment. Consideration for a second year extension is contingent upon funding availability and performance.

**To Apply:**

Applicants should send a CV, contact information for two references, and a cover letter outlining their interest in the position as well as their relevant skills and experience to Lyall Bellquist (Lyall.Bellquist@tnc.org) and Brice Semmens (BSemmens@ucsd.edu). Review of applicants will begin immediately until the position is full.

**The Nature Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer:**

Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.

**UCSD is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer:**

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.