

Kimberley Marine Research Station: Operations Internship Position

Duration: 3 month period

Location: Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, Dampier Peninsula, 2.5 hours north of Broome (WA)

Position overview: A unique opportunity for a marine/environmental science student or graduate looking to gain experience in commercial aquaculture operations, marine research and report writing, in the planet's last great tropical marine wilderness; the Kimberly, Western Australia. This internship position will be focused on management of *Pinctada maxima* during operations, assisting visiting research teams who are carrying out research in the Cygnet Bay area, and maintaining and running KMRS research projects. We are looking for an energetic, resourceful and motivated person, with experience in the areas of marine or environmental sciences, to join the team.



Experiences gained are as follows:

- General aquaculture practices in *Pinctada maxima* in a hatchery and farm environment
- Oyster size grading and health assessments
- Selecting saibo (Graft tissue for seeding)
- Pearl Shell operations
- Fisheries compliance
- Research project management
- Vessel safety training and inductions
- Experience on a range of commercial vessels
- Working alone and as part of a team
- Working and liaising with visiting research scientists
- Working and living in a remote location within a small community

Accommodation and lifestyle: During your stay you receive free, single, shared accommodation and three meals a day, provided by the Cygnet Bay Pearls Restaurant, while on site. The general routine for an intern is work between 6am and 2pm on a 5 on, 2 off roster, which gives you plenty of time to explore the surrounding coastline. During the dry season it will be warm during the day and cool at night, with winds often from the South. Cygnet Bay is a remote location; the only mobile service and internet provider is Telstra, and the nearest shop and medical clinic are a 15 minute drive away in One Arm Point; trips are organised during the week if required. On site, the social club provides a recreational room and communal kitchen; some sports equipment such as standup paddleboards, kayaks, a volleyball pitch and an outdoor gym; and a pool table, giant Jenga, and board games for the lazy days.

Position details:

Aquaculture practices in *Pinctada maxima*: You will discover and learn about all processes of pearl farming at Cygnet Bay Pearls and the fisheries compliance that regulates the industry. During the pearling operations season at Cygnet Bay, KMRS interns assist the hatchery crew in handling and managing the shell on site and supporting the pearl oyster operation procedures. Pearl oyster operations include seeding pearls into oysters and harvesting and re-seeding if the first one doesn't work out. You will also assist the pearling crew out on the boats in everyday operations such as line cleaning, and will add to the long-term monitoring of oyster survivorship and growth at different stages of their development around the farm site. Depending on the time of year you may gain experience in x-ray of oysters to grade pearls, destocking on the farm, and shell deliveries and husbandry.



Spat monitoring and pearling operations at the hatchery and on the farm

KMRS research and responsibilities: As a KMRS intern you will be responsible for managing the daily, weekly and monthly tasks carried out by an intern. You will be responsible for daily updates on our social media platforms, and will create the KMRS quarterly newsletter. You will also manage our on-going research projects, which we run with the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), and collect monthly or bi-monthly data to contribute to these. Due to the nature of the work involved in being an intern you will need to be flexible and use your initiative to plan and complete tasks in the face of unexpected changes.

Depending on how busy the operations season is, you may be asked to compile and present a data progress report of the KMRS and pearl farm research for the hatchery manager and partners. Throughout the year we host visiting research groups from agencies such as CSIRO, AIMS, UWA and WAMSI who carry out research in the Cygnet Bay area, alongside the Bardi Jawi Indigenous Ranger Group from One Arm Point. During your stay you may get the opportunity to work alongside these scientists as they carry out their research, and work with the Bardi Jawi Ranger group and Traditional Owners of Sea Country who support the research.



The sea life and giant tides waterfall of the Cygnet Bay area

To apply: If you think this role sounds right for you, please send your curriculum vitae along with a cover letter to: farmmanager@cygnetbaypearls.com.au