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## SSIO 2015 Internship Opportunity Position

### Internship Information

Project title: **How effective are killer whales as hunters?**

NOAA mission goal: **Healthy Oceans**

Hypothesis or objectives: **Killer whales are considered to be the top most predator of the marine ecosystem. They are cosmopolitan, can be both generalist or specialist feeders, and have well-defined social systems. Among the different prey types they consume, marine mammals feature prominently in their diet. Hunting marine mammals require a special suite of hunting skills. The effectiveness of killer whales as hunters of marine mammals has not been determined in terms of costs and benefits of the entire anatomy of a predation event. The principal objectives are to comprehensively compile and analyze information on predation events involving killer whale hunting marine mammals in terms of hunting success, individuals involved, prey type consumed, and geographic area of the hunt.**

Academic status: **Graduate**

Area(s) of discipline: **Biology, Computer And Information Sciences, Ecology, Environmental Science Studies, Fisheries Science, Information Systems, Information Technology, Living Marine Resources, Marine And Aquatic Sciences, Mathematics, Ocean Engineering, Oceanography, Zoology**

Internship location: **Silver Spring, MD**

Duties and responsibilities: **1. Use EndNote bibliography to compile past and current killer whale predation events described in journal article or book chapters.  
2. Extract a specific set of predation event related metrics from each journal article.  
3. Organize data to conduct analysis of killer whale hunting prowess.**

Special skills/training required: **1. Ability to work independently  
2. Excellent communication skills  
3. Familiarity with excel, access or relational databases  
4. Can think and write clearly  
5. Responsive to emails and phone calls  
6. Good time management skills  
7. Ability to review and understand scientific literature.  
8. Knowledge of statistics.**

Expected outcomes: **Exposure to journal reading and reviewing skills  
Understanding of marine mammal behavior, ecology, and influence in marine ecosystems  
Introduction to data management, analysis and scientific writing.**

Guidance and supervision: **Dr. Mridula Srinivasan will supervise the intern during the entire project duration. The mentor will provide project guidance, monitor progress, and work with intern on feasibility of project goals, time available, and if required, adapt project goals to suit intern interests**

more interests.

Posted or modified date/time: **Thursday, October 30, 2014 - 12:42:00 PM**

### Internship Travel Information

Purpose (student's role): ---

Mode of transportation: ---

Date(s): ---

Destination: ---

Estimated cost: ---

Source of funding: ---

### Mentors Contact Information

Name: **Mridula Srinivasan**

Organization: **National Marine Fisheries Service  
(NMFS)**

Program office: **Office of Science and Tech.**

Mailing address: **1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

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Email: **mridula.srinivasan@noaa.gov**

Co-Mentor name: ---

Co-Mentor email: ---

Agency or organization: ---



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