Program Information
Earn 2 credits learning about marine life and sharks through excursions and hands-on experience with marine biologists. No prerequisites but preference will be given to students having taken FW 2003; limited to 16 students.

Travel Dates
August 13 to 21, 2011

Instructor
Peter Sorensen
Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology
soren003@umn.edu

Program Cost
$2,865 includes airfare, lodging & meals, travel insurance and transportation. Tuition and personal expenses are additional.

For more information:
International Programs in Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (IPFANS)
135 Skok Hall
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108
(612) 624.3221
vreyens@umn.edu

Application materials online at:
http://international.cfans.umn.edu
Applications are due February 15, 2011

Grants and scholarships are available.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. The contents of this brochure and other University brochures, bulletins, publications and announcements are subject to change without notice.

In collaboration with
Bimini Biological Field Station

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota
The Bahamas

Before the discovery of the New World, the Lucayan Indians inhabited the chain of islands east of Florida now known as the Bahamas. Christopher Columbus re-discovered this region in 1492 and after a chaotic couple of centuries during which time the island served as a base for pirates, they became a British colony. Many freed slaves came to settle the Bahamas which today function as an independent country and the site of much pristine marine habitat. The small island of Bimini has retained a special place in history of smuggling, sport fishing (Earnest Hemmingway) and most recently studies of sharks and other marine life.

Bimini Biological Field Station

Founded in 1990, the Bimini Biological field Station or “Sharklab” is operated by Dr. Samuel K. Gruber (http://www6.miami.edu/sharklab). The Sharklab is a world famous facility. Dr. Gruber came to Bimini after discovering that this region is a vital habitat for a wide variety of marine life, especially the lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*). Most of it is still isolated and pristine. From this station Dr. Gruber and his students continue to carry out full-time field research on shark biology. It is also close to many beautiful coastal island marine ecosystems (shark nursery areas and feeding ground, coral reefs, mangrove forest, sandy beach).

The Field Study

This field study includes a combination of hands-on field and laboratory exercises guided by both BBFS and UM faculty and staff. The course explores the ecology of local sharks and the natural history of the Caribbean while addressing aspects of local culture and development. In particular, students will investigate several marine ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, sandy and rocky inter-tidal zones) and spend at least two days learning about and observing the many shark species that live in this region. Daily lectures are followed by excursions to observe these fascinating systems and the sharks that live within them. Local flora and fauna are collected and identified, and sharks baited by Sharklab staff, for close observations. There will be at least two snorkeling adventures a day. The course ends with a short independent research project.

“It was the most amazing thing I have ever done. I would do it again in a heartbeat…”
—Student from 2009