

## Kimberley Marine Research Station: 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 Kimberley, Western Australia. This internship position will be focused on management of *Pinctada maxima* in a farm environment, assisting visiting research teams, 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 farm environment
- Oyster monitoring and health assessments around the farm
- Pearl shell deliveries and husbandry
- Research project management
- Ongoing data collection, analysis and reports
- Vessel safety training and inductions
- Experience on a range of commercial vessels
- Working independently and as part of a team
- Assisting visiting research groups when required
- Working and living in a remote location within a small community
- Fisheries compliance

**Accommodation and lifestyle:** During your stay you receive free, single bed, shared accommodation and three meals a day, provided by Cygnet Bay Pearls, 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 wet season it will be hot and humid during the day with frequent thunderstorms. Cygnet Bay is a remote location; the only mobile service and internet provider is Telstra (however reception can still be poor at times) 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 wet season at Cygnet Bay, KMRS interns assist the pearling crew in managing the shell deliveries and the husbandry of the new shell to get it settled in on the farm and in everyday operations such as line cleaning. You will add to the long-term monitoring of oyster survivorship and growth, at different stages of their development, around the farm site and present this data in an annual report. Depending on the time of year you may get experience in pearling operations on oysters, algae production, spawning and destocking on the farm. Ask the hatchery manager for more information regarding these procedures and at what time of year they occur.



*Algae production, spat monitoring on the farm, and rock oyster competition sampling*

**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 bi monthly 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. These projects involve monitoring coral health and recruitment, and interspecific competition of rock oysters. 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 wet 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.



*The sea life and tidal waterfalls 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: [research@cygnetbaypearls.com.au](mailto:research@cygnetbaypearls.com.au)