



Master thesis advertisement: **identification and assessment of confiscated shark fins**

About:

The Ichthyology section of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology (ZSM, www.zsm.mwn.de) received a sample of confiscated shark fins. In the advertised thesis, the successful applicant will identify shark species from fins. The sample comprises pectoral, pelvic, dorsal and tail fins from a diversity of carcharhiniform sharks from the Gulf of Mexico. The identification to species level will be based on a) identification keys b) morphometrics and c) DNA analysis (barcodes). The data will be used to identify protected species, the amount of adult and subadult species, populations as well as reviewing the freely available software iSharkFin (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/tools/software/isharkfin/en/>) for its accuracy.

Procedure:

Fins will be sorted and identified using identification keys. Thereafter, the fins will be standardized photographed meeting requirements for the usage of iSharkFin. Further, specimens will be sampled for subsequent DNA extraction tests and sequencing of the mitochondrial NADH2 gene. Finally, specimen will be catalogued and preserved for long-term storage in the ZSM.

Requirements:

Bachelor in Zoology, Ecology or similar. Good English skills, interest in morphometrics as well as laboratory work including DNA extraction methods and PCR amplifications. Experience in one or both of the latter methods advantageous.

Note that this is a smelly job! Non-sensitivity to fish stench advantageous!

General information:

Place of work is the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, the thesis will be supervised by Dr. Nicolas Straube and Prof. Roland Melzer. If you would like to apply, please send an email to straube@zsm.mwn.de with your CV and a short letter of motivation (maximal attachment size: 1 MB). The thesis is advertised until June 30 2018 if not filled with an adequate candidate earlier.

