

ANIMAL CARE - CEPHALOPODS

Background Information and Project Justification

Interns assist a research group at the MBL in Woods Hole, MA, with basic husbandry duties involved in keeping live cephalopods.

There are several species of cephalopods (cuttlefish, octopus, squid) kept for research at the Marine Resources Center.

This internship will give interested candidates the opportunity to work closely with these animals. While caring for the animals, candidates will be able to learn about the intricate behaviors of these fascinating marine creatures!



Photo above shows a male cuttlefish in a Zebra body pattern which is used to repel males.

Check out this egg with a baby cuttlefish!



Primary Objective:

Interns perform daily animal husbandry duties including feeding, tank maintenance, monitoring disease, and if necessary, treating sick animals. Depending on the time of year, duties also include caring for cuttlefish eggs and rearing freshly hatched cuttlefish. Interns are required to keep records and prepare a final presentation to the MRC staff and fellow interns, intended to increase the staff's understanding of aspects of cephalopod husbandry, nutrition and behavior.

Resources Available for this Project:

- Experience working at a world renowned marine laboratory, which is a great start for a career in Marine Biology.
- Work closely with researchers at the MRC (<http://www.mbl.edu/mrc/hanlon/index.html>), the MRC Veterinarian, and the Animal Care team.
- Opportunity to develop skills with animal care and to work with really neat animals.
- Letters of recommendation for future career.
- 24 hour access to the MBL library including pre-paid copying card for copying reprints etc.
- Access to an MBL computer terminal for literature/web searches.

Skills Required:

- Patience - cephalopods are very delicate creatures.
- Willingness to learn about aquatic animal husbandry, physiology and behavior.
- Accurate record keeping skills.
- Ability to work independently.

Estimated Time Commitment: For a full time intern, 40 hrs/week.

Project Supervisor: Dr. Roger Hanlon.