**Summer Program:** Hands-on, marine field research experience in Clearwater, Florida.  All participants will be involved in all aspects of a local population study on sharks and rays.  This includes setting and retrieving nets and longlines, handling and identifying captured animals, tagging and measuring all captured sharks and rays, collecting tissue samples from sharks and rays for DNA analysis, recording data, and releasing animals.  Each day begins with a lecture on shark and ray identification, biology, physiology, and conservation as well as our local ecosystems, species, and other conservation topics.  After the 1 - 2 hour lecture in the morning, the day continues with 6 – 8 hours of field research aboard our vessels.

**Who should attend:** Anyone 18 years of age or older interested in pursuing a career in the natural sciences.  This includes incoming freshmen, currently enrolled students, and college graduates.  This program provides invaluable research and animal handling experience.  Such unique field training will make you a valuable candidate for future internships, graduate school, and jobs.  There are no pre-requisites and no previous experience is necessary.

**Course credit:**  Most students receive credit for our program and you should discuss receiving course credit for this program with your advisor.  Whether or not you receive course credit, this field research experience will be a very beneficial addition to your résumé or CV.  Credit is often listed as research experience, internship credits, independent study, capstone project, marine biology/science credit, and other related titles.

**Housing:** Affordable and fully furnished housing is available to our summer program participants and includes Wi-Fi, a full kitchen, linens, and laundry facilities.

**Transportation:**  After arriving in the Tampa/Clearwater, FL area, transportation is provided to/from: airport, bus station, our classrooms and boats, and the grocery store.

**Enrollment:**  The final enrollment deadline is March 31, 2018.

**Tuition:**  Tuition rates vary based on the number of weeks you wish to attend the program.  Participants who attend 3 or more weeks will receive tuition breaks.

To enroll in this unique and amazing hands-on program and for more detailed information, please visit our website:

[www.cmera.net](http://www.cmera.net/)

**Other opportunities currently being offered:**

**Sea of Cortez live aboard diving expedition:** August 25 - 31, 2018 in La Paz, Mexico.  There is extremely limited space on this expedition.  Registration deadline is March 1, 2018, but the boat could be full well before that date, so register early.  Go to <https://www.coastalmera.com/sea-of-cortez-dive-expedition-2018.html> for all details.

**Cruising for Conservation, marine conservation conference at sea:** January 6 - 13, 2019 aboard the Carnival Glory in and out of New Orleans, LA.  Registration deadline is August 1, 2018.  Space is limited, so register early.  All details can be found at [www.cruisingforconservation.org](http://www.cruisingforconservation.org/).