



## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP 8/2

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
CROP Organisations  
SPREP Partner Organisations  
PIRT Members  
University Focal Points

**DATE:** 11 March 2020

**CIRCULAR:** 20/16

**SUBJECT:** **Study Opportunity – Marine Turtles and Sharks**

Dear Focal Points,

Dr Jason Turner of the University of Hawaii Hilo (UHH), is offering summer courses on marine turtles and sharks and marine conservation from 22 June to 31 July, 2020. These courses would provide a great opportunity for professional development for government staff involved in managing these marine species, particularly at a technical level.

Dr Turner advises that although they have internal requirements to register, students outside of the UHH can register as long as they have had some basic college level biology, he can permit enrollment and bypass the prerequisites.

Although we do not have any study support to offer, there is a reduced rate per course for Pacific Island students. There is also student housing available in dormitories for the summer. A summary of the course content is set out below and fliers attached to this email.

Registration is required before April 6, 2020. Please visit <https://hilo.hawaii.edu/depts/summer/>

Please pass this information on to your Environment, Conservation and Fisheries Departments. For further information you may contact Dr Turner at [jpturner@hawaii.edu](mailto:jpturner@hawaii.edu) or [karenb@sprep.org](mailto:karenb@sprep.org)

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu  
**Director General**



**MARE 380, Natural History of Sharks and Rays, 3 credits - Dr. Jason Turner**

This course will examine the natural history of the Elasmobranchs, an ancient group of fishes that have existed for almost 450 million years. Comprehensive investigations of sharks, rays, skates, sawfishes, and chimera along with representative species from Hawai'i will be conducted. Subjects will include evolution, taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, ecology, conservation and management of these unique animals. Discussions of current research papers along with group research projects will be covered during lectures. Pre: Concurrent enrollment in MARE 380L required.

**MARE 380L, Natural History of Sharks, Rays, and Skates Lab, 1 credit - Dr. Jason Turner**

This course will further examine Elasmobranchs using a hands-on approach to compliment the work done in lecture using both laboratory and field-based activities. Laboratory sessions will involve detailed dissections of shark, ray, skate, and chimera functional anatomy. Students will also participate in a tagging study of coastal shark species throughout the Big Island of Hawai'i. Pre: Concurrent enrollment in MARE 380 required. \$250 lab fee payable upon registration.

**MARE 460, Marine Conservation, 3 credits – Dr. Jason Turner**

Concepts and issues in marine conservation and marine resource management. Topics include resource exploitation, invasive species, eutrophication, marine pollution and global climate change. Ecological impacts of resource depletion, environmental modification, and biodiversity loss will be discussed along with methods used to address impacts. Pre: C- or better in MARE 265 or instructor's consent

**MARE 490, Sea Turtle Conservation & Ecology, 3 credits - Dr. Jason Turner**

All-encompassing look at the natural history of these ancient marine vertebrates with special focus on sea turtles of Hawaii. Topics include investigations of sea turtles, sea snakes, saltwater crocodiles and marine iguanas throughout the world. Subjects will consist of conservation and management, human impacts, reproductive and feeding ecology, evolution, taxonomy, and anatomy and physiology of these unique marine animals. Pre: prior college-level marine biology course recommended, or equivalent or instructor's consent. Pre: Concurrent enrollment in MARE 490L.

**MARE 490L, Sea Turtle Conservation & Ecology Laboratory, 1 credit - Dr. Jason Turner**

Field and lab techniques employed by sea turtle biologists including shore and underwater photo-surveys, forage surveys, and evaluation of nests and hatchlings. Investigations will focus on local species of sea turtles of Hawaii including green (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Pre: Concurrent enrollment in MARE 490. \$250 lab fee payable upon registration.