



SHARK Internship 2023

Sharklab ADRIA

THE RESEARCH

Our research presents the perennial systematic study of sharks, skates and rays in the Adriatic Sea. We focus on the abundance, reproduction, embryological development, diseases, and immunological responses to wider environmental pressures. Further, we are working to understand the scope, magnitude and breadth of overfishing, habitat loss and pollution on elasmobranchs.

Currently, we are based in the ancient city of **Vlorë** (Albania) surrounded by breathtaking nature, including the massive Karaburun peninsula, Sazan island and giant Narta lagoon where you will see flamingoes, pelicans and many more interesting species - both in the sea and at the land.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for highly motivated and hard-working persons, offering several internship and volunteering positions. Whether you are undergraduate that would like to obtain internship credit or gain new skills and experience, or you are graduate that wish to attain specific skills at the field, in the laboratories and more – this could be a fantastic opportunity for you! Your engagement could be also used in your thesis.

Opportunities are available starting **March 2023**, onwards. The minimum duration of your stay is 1 month, while the maximum stay is 6 months. Of course, if you would like to stay here more than just 6 months, we can discuss that as well.

WHAT TO EXPECT?!

We have prepared exciting activities that will dramatically improve your knowledge and skills:

AT THE FIELD

FISHERY MONITORING: commercial and artisanal fisheries, by-catch composition and species identification and post-release survival rates.

TRAWL SURVEYS: opportunity to board and study commercial trawlers and longlines that fish up to 600 m deep, to conduct sampling and more.

UNDERWATER STUDIES: chance to advance your diving skills and learn how to operate the simple ROV for habitat monitoring up to 100 m deep.

ACOUSTIC TELEMETRY: understanding the behavior and spatial ecology of elasmobranchs in relation to their environments

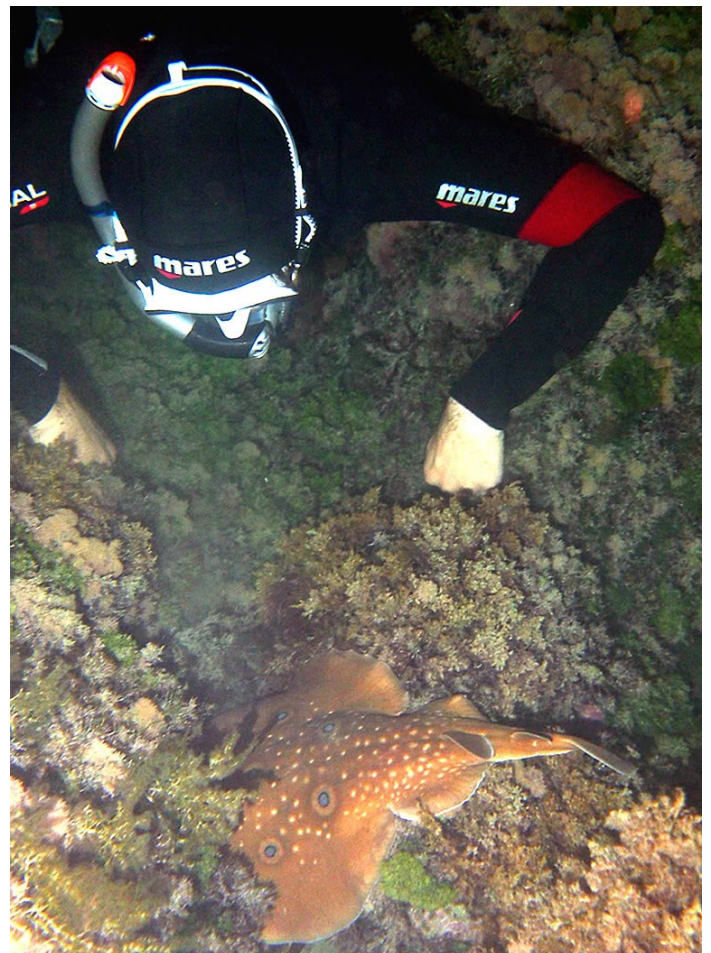
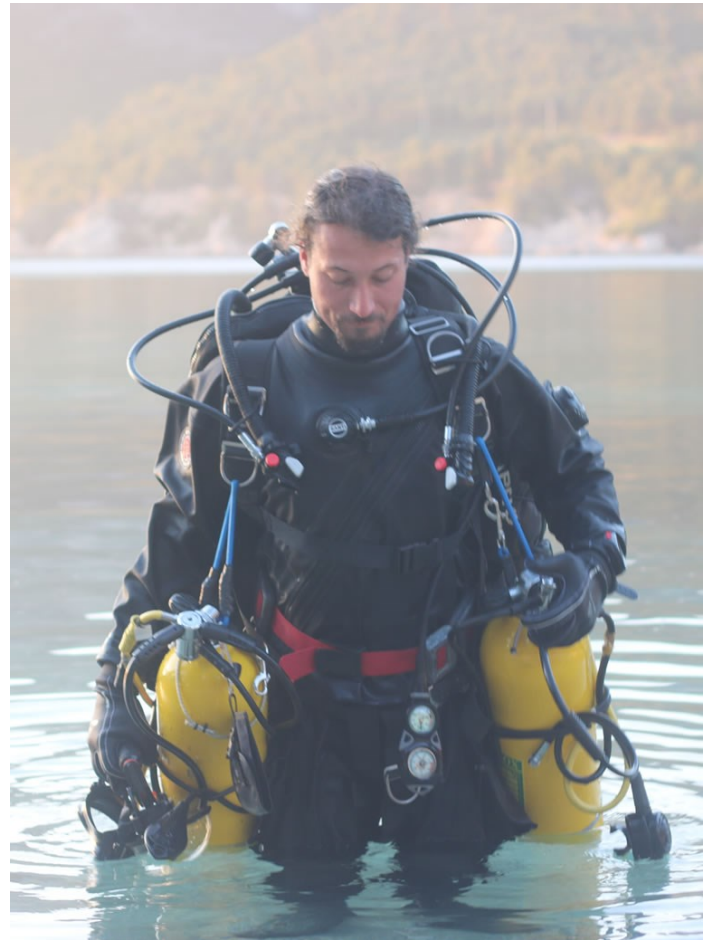
IN THE LABS

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY: chance to advance your knowledge, learn how to use the laboratory tools and how to prepare educational full taxidermies

SURGICAL TECHNIQUES: basic soft tissue surgeries, implant tags, foreign body removal, etc.), wound treatment and suture procedures.

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS: learn how to conduct autopsies, recognize tissue changes and seclude them for microscopic examination

HISTOPATHOLOGY: diagnose and describe diseases using routine and special histological stains with a focus on brain and liver lesions.





TRAINING PROVIDED

We are providing high-quality training, scientific support and professional mentorship and supervision (including your thesis, as well). The internship will include following trainings/topics:

- ✦ Terrestrial and underwater studies
- ✦ Passive acoustic telemetry practical training
- ✦ Biosystematics and taxonomy
- ✦ Comparative and functional anatomy
- ✦ Reproduction and embryology
- ✦ Physical examination, sampling and sedation
- ✦ Rescue, rehabilitation and release
- ✦ Disease diagnostics
- ✦ Pharmacology of sharks, skates and rays
- ✦ Preparing and reviewing your project
- ✦ Manuscript and technical report writing

You will be encouraged and empowered to co-author papers resulting our joint engagement. Further, we will provide you a long-term professional support for your thesis, manuscripts, projects, and anything else you might need. Please note that your engagement can be used for B.Sc, M.Sc. or Ph.D. thesis and our scientist are more than happy to provide co-advising services.

We aim to achieve long-term friendship and cooperation, as you became a part of Sharklab family!

MEET YOUR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Andrej A. GAJIĆ

internationally awarded scientist, lecturer, advisor, advanced diver, ROV pilot, documentary filmmaker
with academic specializations in *pathology, ecology and conservation*

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Andrej is widely known for his multiple engagements at **National Geographic** (Washington, D.C.) as a scientist, expert reviewer and lecturer and **Discovery Channel** (New York) as expedition leader and talent; as well as founder of **Sharklab ADRIA**. He is author of more than 70 publications and principal investigator of 19 regional projects in last six years. Through last five years Andrej delivered invited lectures across United States and Europe. Experienced in working with more than 70 elasmobranch species and his achievements were featured in more than 200 media, including: NatGeo, Discovery, FOX, CNN, Deutsche Welle and more.

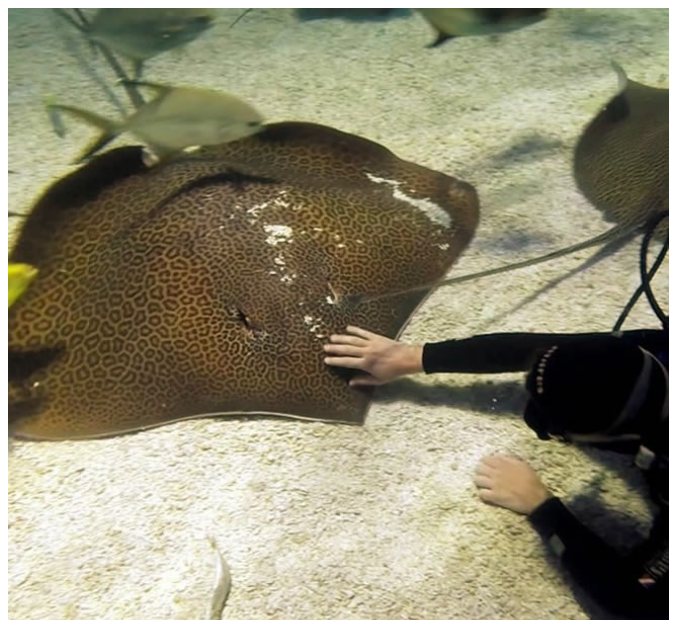


Andrej during the pathological examination of the critically endangered blue shark in Vlorë, Sept 2022

RECENT AWARDS

- 2022 **Honorary Ambassador of Mediterranean Sea**
appointed by Barcelona Convention, UN
- 2021 **Special Governmental Recognition** awarded
for extraordinary scientific achievements
- 2020 **EC Leadership** for scientific research
awarded by National Geographic in D.C.
- 2019 **Man of the Year** awarded from the LadiesIn
community in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Besides mentioned, Andrej was twice nominated for Person of the Year award (2014, 2020), got awards for underwater photography and even more.



Detection and treatment of elasmobranch diseases in captivity, Andrej with leopard whipray, 2015

REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for well-motivated, hard-working persons with true interest in marine biology and conservation, particularly in sharks, skates and rays. Further, we expect you to be very responsible with ability to easily surmount new tasks, quickly adapt to teamwork and participate in a dynamic and multicultural environment. Of course, we anticipate you to respect our rules and willingness to follow high standards, and we expect your full collaboration in achieving them.

Desirable skills include a background in marine biology or veterinary medicine, and knowledge of marine animals, previous field and laboratory experience. In non - not a problem, **We are here to guide you through your first scientific steps!**

SCHOLARSHIPS

With the desire to support everybody equally, we are offering a very limited number of full scholarships that are funded by the staff of Sharklab.

These scholarships are available only for ESAIC low-income countries ([please see the list here](#)) or in an exceptional circumstances that can be discussed with us via e-mail. When the scholarship is approved by our Board, your fee is paid by Sharklab ADRIA and you have all the benefits as listed above.

Prior to apply for scholarship, consider whether you fulfill all the criteria and get in touch with us.

CONTRIBUTION FEES

The contribution fee is **850 € / month** for internships while for a timeframe longer than two months the fee is 750 € / month. All the fee goes directly to supporting our ongoing studies. The fee includes:

- Accommodation (shared rooms with access to bathroom and kitchen, WiFi, washing machine, hot water and air conditioner)
- Transportation between project sites
- Fieldwork (land surveys, boat survey, fishery monitoring, underwater surveys as agreed)
- Laboratory practice (conducting autopsies, basic surgical techniques, taxidermies and diagnostic)
- Lectures, training and interactive workshops

HOW TO APPLY?

In order to apply, please send your CV and a cover letter explaining why you are the best assets for our team and what personal goals you plan to accomplish during your engagement. Period of interest and duration of stay should be emphasized.

You can send your application to e-mail:

interns@sharklab-adria.org

or you can simply fill the form at our website

<https://sharklab-adria.org/interns/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

