The Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory is seeking individuals to fly an unmanned aircraft - or drone - to monitor shark populations along the Santa Barbara County coastline for SharkEye. SharkEye is a collaborative research effort that pairs aerial footage with Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect great white sharks. The goal of the project is to learn more about shark biology and behavior and help people safely share the ocean with marine wildlife.

This position is ideal for undergraduate students who have experience or would like to build experience flying drones and collecting aerial data for research purposes. Experience flying drones is desirable but not required.

**Responsibilities**

- Fly a MAVIC Pro II or Air 2 S DJI drone in standardized transects off the coastline of Carpinteria, California 1-3 times a week, with flexibility in schedule.
- Act as a Visual Observer during flights for other drone pilots
- Operate, maintain and transport drone equipment
- Record relevant drone flight information
- Analyze drone footage to identify, count, and size white sharks
- Use Litchi app for DJI drones to help plan automated transects
- Input relevant flight and environmental data into Google Sheets
- Interface with community stakeholders as needed
- Validate predictions and shark abundance counts made by recent SharkEye machine learning model
- Potential to increase in hours if desired to assist with other Bosl projects (e.g. scraping web for tiger shark drone data, identifying deep-sea mining case studies for new data platform, etc.)

**Desired qualifications**

- Possess FAA certification Part 107 for Remote Pilots or willing to obtain FAA certification necessary to operate an uncrewed aircraft
- Possess driver's license and has the ability to drive to Carpinteria, California.
- Ability to lift and carry 30 pounds
- Ability to work independently

**Additional qualifications**

- Interest or experience in marine science, environmental problem-solving and/or Artificial Intelligence

This is a part-time position (5-20 hours/week based on interest) for the Summer quarter, with potential to extend into the Fall. You will assist the Lead SharkEye drone pilot in surveys, or fill in for them when they are unavailable. Compensation is $18/hour. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to bosl-contact@ucsb.edu by June 1, 2024.

**About the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory**: Based at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory applies marine science and technology to create scalable solutions to pressing ocean health problems.