

Crew wanted for Pacific Island Research Expedition

This May, New Zealand charity Sustainable Coastlines will join the international expedition organisation Pangaia Exploration on an important marine survey of isolated island and atoll environments in the Pacific Ocean.

Our purpose is to collect and record valuable information to assist with long-term marine conservation, education and community projects in the area and around the world. We are looking for crew to help provide manpower, technical skills and financial support to our research mission.

The expedition will be based aboard the *Sea Dragon* – a modern 72ft sailing vessel fully-equipped for research and ocean voyages, enabling the team to reach remote locations in safety and comfort. The four-part marine survey will begin in Tahiti on the 10th of May, passing through the Southern and Northern Cook Islands and the Northern Line Islands (including Christmas Island) before arriving in Hawaii on the 30th of June.

During our voyage, we will work with local communities and NGOs to study a wide range of conservation issues affecting these small islands including marine debris, water quality, habitat condition and overfishing. The team will meet and interview members of local communities, NGOs and official leaders, and explore pristine, untouched and life-abundant ecosystems in remote, uninhabited islands, reefs and atolls.

Throughout each leg of the voyage the team will conduct research through a variety of methods, including photography and videography (both above surface and underwater), beach surveying, visual reef checks, fish and water sampling, manta trawl surface sampling, CO₂ and pH monitoring and written observations.

We will produce a short educational film on marine conservation, contribute to a daily blog syndicate, produce short video blogs, produce a report of findings, data and analysis, produce an overall popular media article about the expedition and create educational tools for local communities. All of these resources will be available world wide, free of charge.

This trip is important because these remote Pacific Islands are the first areas to be affected by issues such as climate change and overfishing. It is an opportunity to research, support and gain awareness of these fragile ecosystems and communities that are often overlooked because of their geographical isolation.

Participation in exploration, conservation and education work is an incredible personal experience. This voyage will give you the chance to build skills and friendships and bring home an earned satisfaction of working on the front lines.





PANGAEA EXPLORATION

Expressions of interest are sought from divers, educators, photographers, journalists, artists, marine biologists, deckhands, sailors, writers, conservationists, organisations and any others wanting to join the adventure.

For more detailed information visit www.panexplore.com and click on Pacific Islands Survey. To express your interest in joining the expedition, email Anna Mathieson (Sustainable Coastlines Pacific Project Liaison) at anna@sustainablecoastlines.org.

Timeline:

Leg 1: May 10 – 15	Tahiti to Cook Islands
Leg 2: May 16 – 27	Southern Cook Islands
Leg 3: May 28 – June 14	Northern Cook Islands
Leg 4: June 15 – June 30	Northern Line Islands to Hawaii

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