

Job Title	Fisheries Biologist II
Auto req ID	15890BR
Positions Remaining	1
Full / Part Time	Full-Time
Employment Type	Regular
Job Description	<b>Fisheries Biologist II (Mammal Genetics Technician)</b>

FLSA Exempt

**Location:**

Lafayette, LA

**Reports to:**

Project Manager, NOAA unit leaders

**Period of Performance:**

Two years from the official start date or until the funds for the position are depleted.

**Summary:**

The SEFSC Marine Mammal Program (MMP) is responsible for science-based assessment and conservation of marine mammal populations in the Southeast Region. Accurate assessments of population status require an accounting of the human-induced mortalities, accurate estimates of abundance, and a complete understanding of the population structure and mixing rates among populations. The MMP conducts small-boat field research and tissue samples collected from strandings and obtained through remote dart-biopsy techniques from both small and large vessels provide DNA for genetic studies of population structure and health at the Lafayette facility which houses a state-of-the-art molecular genetics laboratory. In addition to genetic analyses of population structure and gene flow, the genetics lab conducts research into the evolutionary relationships among cetacean species, social structure, and genetic species identifications. Tissue samples are also used to examine the levels of pollutants in the bodies of marine mammals. The contractor (Mammal Genetics Technician) shall work within the SEFSC Protected Resources and Biodiversity Division's Marine Mammal Unit and will be located in Lafayette, Louisiana. The contractor shall support research projects focused on molecular genetic analyses of marine mammal populations and species. The contractor shall assist with processing marine mammal tissue samples for collection of a

variety of types of molecular genetic data and shall play a role in the day-to-day maintenance of a molecular genetics lab.

The Contractor shall: perform DNA extractions from cetacean and pinniped species tissue samples collected from strandings, live captures, bycatch and biopsies; perform PCR (polymerase chain) reactions, gel electrophoresis; collect DNA sequence and microsatellite data on ABI 310 or ABI 3130 automated Genetic Analyzers; and maintain an accurate and complete laboratory notebook. The Contractor shall log and archive tissue samples, DNAs and associated data into a database. The Contractor shall conduct data QA/QC, assist with basic data analysis, provide summaries of progress and results, provide data reports and presentations. The Contractor shall perform basic laboratory upkeep and maintenance as assigned, prepare reagents, prepare, ship and log tissue sample tubes, participate in bi-weekly laboratory meetings. The contractor may be required to perform marine mammal fieldwork as necessary.

**Essential Job Functions:**

- Knowledge of applying basic concepts, principles and methodologies of marine mammal science or related biological field sufficient to independently perform scientific tasks using standard molecular methods and techniques.
- Proficiency with DNA extractions, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), DNA sequencing and microsatellite data collection and ability to independently perform scientific tasks using standard molecular biological methods and techniques.
- Experience with analysis of sequence or microsatellite data; computer literate and experience with common word processing, spreadsheet, statistical and graphics programs.
- Capable of writing reports at the college level and making oral presentations.
- Excellent problem solving and critical thinking skills. Good organizational skills and ability to plan daily duties. Ability to work independently as well as with other employees. Clear oral and written communication with Federal Managers and other employees.

**Level of Supervision:**

None

**Education and Experience:**

MS Degree in Marine Science or a related field of study (including

Genetics, Molecular Biology, or Biology) or BS Degree in Marine Science or a related field of study (including Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biology) plus three (3) years of relevant experience.

**License and Certifications:**

None

**Physical Demands/Working Environment:**

The contractor may be required to perform marine mammal fieldwork as necessary. Overtime (up to 20 hours per week, on occasion) may be required.

**Travel:**

Periodic travel will be required for field work in estuaries and coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico.

**Security Clearance:**

NACI - National Agency Check plus written Inquiries