

State of Washington  
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
invites applications for the position of:

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Working for Washington State

## Permanent Scientific Technician 2 \* 10957-14

**SALARY:** \$2,426.00 - \$3,135.00 Monthly

**OPENING DATE:** 11/17/14

**CLOSING DATE:** 11/27/14 05:00 PM

### DESCRIPTION:



**Our Mission**  
To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

**Vision**  
Conservation of Washington's fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is dedicated to protecting native fish and wildlife, and providing sustainable fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of residents and visitors. Working throughout the state, WDFW's employees—field biologists, enforcement officers, land stewards, lab technicians, customer service representatives and others—manage hundreds of fish and wildlife species, maintain nearly a million acres of public wildlife lands, provide opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting, protect and restore habitat and enforce laws that protect fish and wildlife resources. Find out more about us and the important work we are a part of at [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

This is a permanent Scientific Technician 2 position in the Fish Program, Wild Salmon Production Evaluation Unit / Conservation Biology Unit/Fish Health. The duty stations are 152 Riversend Rd. Dungeness, WA and the Natural Resource Building, Olympia, WA. The schedule for this position is February 1, through August 31, at 152 Riversend Rd, Dungeness, WA and from September 1, through January 31, Natural Resource Building, Olympia, WA.

This position works in the field and in the fish health lab. The technician assists the Lead microbiologist with processing fish health samples. The information gained from these samples provides other fish health and hatchery staff with the data necessary to make decisions on specific fish health issues.

This position assist the Lead Biologist in collecting data necessary to work with tribal, federal, and private organizations to facilitate cooperative and effective collection and exchange of fishery data. This information is needed to assess stock status, build fishery models, and to forecast salmon returns which is required for the North of Falcon meetings. This position is important for monitoring and evaluating recovery goals for ESA listed Chinook and steelhead. This work is conducted from September 1 – January 31.

This position is part of the Dungeness River juvenile Chinook production evaluation project within the Wild Salmon Production Evaluation Unit. This position operates a juvenile salmon screw trap on the Dungeness River from February 1 thru August 31. The juvenile salmon trap captures, identifies, and enumerates juvenile salmonids migrating from the Dungeness River. This data is used to estimate total system juvenile production

for Wild Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and steelhead.

## **DUTIES:**

### **Operate juvenile salmon Screw Trap.**

**Tasks include:** Operate juvenile salmon trap continuously from February thru August when conditions permit, sampling entire catch from trap a minimum of twice a day. Identify juvenile salmonids to species and enumerate by age, origin, mark type and species. Externally mark a portion of the catch for release above the trapping location to estimate trapping efficiency. Collect biological data and samples from a portion of the catch of each species (length and scales samples). Record and verify field data for accuracy; enter data into computer spreadsheets/ databases. Provide weekly summaries to project lead biologist via phone or internet.

### **Install maintain and repair all the equipment associated with the Dungeness River trapping project, as well as other WSPEU trapping projects as needed.**

**Tasks include:** Maintain agency travel trailers used for office and employee housing, inventory gear and equipment and maintain work sites to promote project efficiency and provide a professional appearance. Assist in the installation of multiple juvenile salmon weirs operated by WSPEU on Hood Canal.

### **At the direction of the Lead Microbiologist the incumbent will process fish tissue samples for virology.**

**Tasks:** Log samples into lab databases and prepare samples for tissue culture assays. Samples must be assayed within a prescribed time so requires careful coordination to complete testing. The virology testing involves running tests utilizing fish cell lines and extensive microscope work to monitor the cells for the presence of replicating viral agents. Must be able to recognize cytopathic effect caused by virus. This also requires maintaining fish cell lines in an aseptic environment for these assays.

### **Collect fish health samples in the field**

**Tasks:** Collect specific tissue and ovarian fluid samples from adult salmon and steelhead at WDFW operated hatcheries using prescribed protocols. Also, obtains samples by dissecting fish delivered to the lab.

### **Other duties as assigned:**

**Tasks include:** Assist in data verification & analysis; assist in related work projects in agency work unit.

## **Working Conditions**

### **Trapping Position:**

Roughly 90% of work will be conducted in the field. The work schedule for this position averages 40 hours per week, but be expected to work rotating shifts, and may include work on weekends, evenings & holidays.

Flexible work schedules are required to address changing conditions, related to weather, stream flow & fish numbers.

Trapping activities involve exposure to inclement weather conditions (hot, cold, wet, windy, humid) and insect bites/stings and pollen. Potentially dangerous conditions may exist including work in high and swift water. Frequent bending, kneeling, crawling, climbing and lifting is required. Working in a rural setting, position may on occasion encounter hostility or verbal threats from landowners and their pets, and possible wildlife encounters. Trap operation requires the ability to handle and lift buckets with live fish in excess of 50 lbs., and prolonged exposure of hands and fingers to cold water (temperatures 40-50 degrees).

### **Fish Health Lab**

Work week is Sunday through Saturday during core business hours. Occasionally travel is required and the incumbent may have to work beyond 8 hours in a day depending on travel distance, number and type of samples that must be taken. Minimal travel is required. Typical travel would be driving to a WDFW hatchery facility to obtain fish tissue samples and returning to the NRB in the same day. Position involves long periods of standing while processing fish tissue samples. Work is conducted with centrifuges and other laboratory equipment. Occasionally involves dissecting fish with scalpels and other hand held instruments. A valid driver's license and a current first aid and CPR certificate.

## **Union**

This position is covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the State of Washington, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Washington Association of Fish and Wildlife Professionals (WAFWP). As a condition of employment you must either join the union and pay union dues, or pay the union a representational or other fee within 30 days of the date you are put into pay status.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Graduation from high school or GED, including one year of high school science and two years of experience as a Scientific Technician 1. OR Graduation from high school or GED including one year of high school science and two years of laboratory or field experience as an assistant to a biologist, chemist, or zoologist.

College course work involving major study in biology, zoology, fisheries, chemistry, natural sciences, or closely allied field will substitute, year for year, for experience, provided the course work includes at least six semester or nine quarter hours of natural science classes.

### **Preferred candidate will have work experience in the following areas:**

1. Knowledge of salmon and trout life histories and behavioral characteristics.
2. Knowledge of safe live fish handling techniques.
3. Ability to identify juvenile and adult salmonids and lampreys live & dead, and other incidental catch.
4. Experience identifying and monitoring salmonids, and lamprey spawning activity by species.
5. At least 18 months of experience operating a juvenile salmon screw trap.
6. Ability to collect high quality biological data and complete data entry/summarization into program spreadsheets & databases.
7. Comfortable in the use of a variety of hand tools, power tools and small engine machinery.
8. Experience communicating with the public, co-workers and supervisor in a professional manner.
9. One year of fish health laboratory experience with procedures specific to microbiology and virology.
10. Two years of experience working with MS OFFICE products including a working knowledge of entering data into EXCEL. Two years of experience entering juvenile salmon catch data into the juvenile salmon database.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

To apply for this position you **MUST** complete your profile at [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov) and attach the following to your profile before completing the online application:

A cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications of this position (generic cover letter will not be accepted)

A current resume (please make it succinct)

Three professional references (personal references do not count as professional)

**Please note:** Failure to follow the above application instructions will lead to disqualification. E-mailed documents will not be accepted in lieu of attaching your documents to the online profile.

Upon submission of your online application, you will immediately receive a confirming e-mail. You will then be notified via e-mail of your status during the process. In addition to the e-mail notifications, you can check the status of your application at any time by visiting your online profile at [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov). Due to the high volume of applications that we receive, we ask your understanding and encourage you to use the online process and avoid calling for information.

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The Department of Fish and Wildlife is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity diversity. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over 40 years of age, disabled and Vietnam era veterans and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply. Persons needing accommodation in the application process or this announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 902-2276 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (800) 833-6388.

**Permanent Scientific Technician 2 \*10957-14 Supplemental Questionnaire**

- \* 1. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony within the last ten (10) years?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 2. Do you have a valid Washington State, or other state, driver's license? (If selected for an interview, you may be asked to furnish your license and driving record.)  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 3. Do you have experience communicating with the public, co-workers and supervisor in a professional manner?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 4. Do you have two years of experience working with MS OFFICE products including a working knowledge of entering data into EXCEL?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 5. Do you have two years of experience entering juvenile salmon catch data into the juvenile salmon database?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 6. Do have the ability to collect high quality biological data and complete data entry/summarization into program spreadsheets & databases?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 7. Do you have one year of fish health laboratory experience with procedures specific to microbiology and virology?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 8. Are you familiar with the life histories and behavioral characteristics of salmon and trout?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 9. Do you have work experience with safe live fish handling techniques?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 10. Do you have at least 18 months of work experience operating a juvenile salmon screw trap?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 11. Do you have work experience identifying and monitoring salmonids, and lamprey spawning activity by species?  
 Yes    No
  
- \* 12. Do you have work experience with identifying juvenile and adult salmonids and lampreys

live & dead, and other incidental catch?

Yes  No

\* 13. Are you comfortable using a variety of hand tools, power tools and small engine machinery?

Yes  No

\* Required Question