

**Position – Field and Laboratory Support (Habitat Use and Feeding ecology of Juvenile Salmon and Forage Fish) - U. S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center (Seattle, WA)**

Immediate opening for one person to assist with research in Puget Sound large river deltas assessing habitat use by juvenile salmon and forage fish, and food web links between delta habitats, invertebrates, and fish. Much of the field work will be conducted from small (16-18 feet) power boats. The incumbent will complete a four-person crew netting and sampling fish from a variety of habitats in the Nisqually Reach and Skagit Bay. Another aspect of field work will be low tide sampling of intertidal areas for sediment, macroinvertebrates, and eelgrass characteristics. Intertidal work will require wading in shallow water and walking across soft mudflats. Field days will usually be longer than eight hours. Lab work will primarily be to process macroinvertebrate samples by sorting invertebrates from sediment and identifying them to coarse taxonomic levels.

Eligibility for this position requires being currently enrolled in college or a recent graduate (within one year). Hiring will be accomplished through Student Services Contracting. The student will be covered for workmen's compensation but will not receive other medical, insurance or retirement benefits.

The project continues work on the response of fish to restoration of tidal inundation following Nisqually dike removal in 2009 (<http://nisquallydeltarestoration.org/>), effects of river channelization and diking on delta habitats and biota, and the importance of eelgrass for providing prey and cover for fish. The Nisqually work is a collaboration between the USGS and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The position will provide excellent field and laboratory experience and the student can expect to learn a lot about fish and estuarine ecology.

**Location:** U. S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center, 6505 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98115

**Dates:** June 1 – September 4, 2015. Possibility of extending past September 4 pending availability of funds and need.

**Hours, schedule:** 280 hours total (average of 20 hours per week). Possibility of expanding to more than 280 hours pending availability of funds and need. Dates of field work are inflexible and have already been scheduled. Lab work scheduling will be more flexible and subject to needs of the student to some extent.

**Salary:**

1 year of college: \$13.98 per hour

2+ years of college: \$15.70 per hour

BA/BS: \$17.56 per hour

BA/BS with superior academic achievement or + 1 year of grad school: \$21.76 per hour

**Requirements:** Must be currently enrolled in college or a recent graduate (within one year). Must possess a current driver's license. Average strength and endurance is required.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Coursework or experience in biology, ecology, earth sciences, or natural resource management. Experience or academic achievement indicating ability to learn new material, work cooperatively in a team, and work independently when needed. Experience or academic achievement indicating ability to accurately and quickly perform fine scale work as will be required for

processing macroinvertebrate samples. Experience or academic achievement indicating facility with computers and software including spreadsheets. GIS skills would be a plus.

**Duties:**

- Capturing juvenile salmon and forage fish with a lampara net, identifying them to species and taking length measurements, and taking water column measurements including salinity, temperature, and current speed.
- Low tide sampling of intertidal habitats for sediment characteristics (grain size, organic content), benthic macroinvertebrates, eelgrass epifauna, and eelgrass metrics (shoot density, length, and biomass).
- Assisting physical scientists mapping bathymetry, extent of different habitats including eelgrass, current patterns, and sediment transport.
- Assisting with launching and trailering boats.
- Cleaning and maintaining gear.
- Processing macroinvertebrate samples including sieving and using a dissecting microscope to sort invertebrates from sediment and identify them to coarse taxonomic levels; assisting with processing other types of samples.
- Entering data.
- Processing temperature logger data.

**Application:** A complete application must consist of (1) a resume that includes the information requested in the attached Student Resume Information sheet (see below), (2) a transcript showing current enrollment or graduation within the previous 11 months, and (3) telephone numbers and email addresses of two references familiar with the applicant's qualifications. For full consideration apply by **May 13, 2015**.

**Submit to:** Steve Rubin at [srubin@usgs.gov](mailto:srubin@usgs.gov) with the subject line: delta fish position 2015

**Student Résumé Information**

In responding to USGS notices of contract opportunities, students should provide a one or two page résumé or statement of qualifications including:

- student's full legal name
- mailing address
- telephone number
- email address (if any)
- date of birth
- place of birth
- citizenship and, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status

- education, including descriptions of relevant classes
- work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field
- laboratory work experience (if applicable to these services)

Attach a copy of the most recent transcript, listing courses taken and the student's overall GPA.

(Note: Students should not include a Social Security Number in their resumes. Students selected for award will be asked to provide the SSN to the Contracting Officer before award. This information is necessary for USGS to complete Internal Revenue Service 1099 form. Form 1099 is required to comply with reporting requirements of 26 U.S.C. 6041, 6041A, and 6050M, and any implementing regulations issued by the IRS.)