Field Technician Intern

Chesapeake Research Consortium-NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Project Description

The Chesapeake Research Consortium and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) seek a summer intern for late May through mid- to late August 2016 (12 weeks) to assist with field work on living resources and environmental observing systems of the Chesapeake Bay. NCBO scientists conduct regular sampling of fish populations and their habitat in the Bay watershed to better understand the delicate balance and health of this vital ecosystem.

The intern will primarily support the Office's habitat assessment/fisheries priorities, including ecosystem services of oyster reefs. A significant amount of time will be spent preparing for and assisting with an intense fish sampling project in Chesapeake Bay tributaries. The position entails a monitoring component including fisheries and invertebrate sampling on oyster reef and shoreline habitats using several sampling techniques. Some data entry, literature review, and other research and administrative tasks will also be assigned as needed.

In addition, NCBO operates a series of observing buoys throughout the Chesapeake Bay equipped with multiple water quality sensors and meteorological instrumentation. This position may include maintenance, preparation, and calibration of sensors and buoys as well as field service visits to buoys. More information about the buoy system can be obtained through the link http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/-chesapeake-bay-interpretive-buoy-system-cbibs/chesapeake-bay-interpretive-buoy-system

Opportunities

This internship provides a unique opportunity to contribute to large-scale, long-term ecological research critical to understanding Chesapeake Bay living resources. The intern will gain valuable experience in field techniques for sampling a variety of fish and invertebrate species. These experiences will provide a strong background in conservation biology, ichthyology, and ecology. The position will also provide an opportunity to expand the intern's knowledge of Chesapeake flora and fauna and the technologies related to field research and ecosystem monitoring.

Deliverables

- Sample macrofauna populations and characterize aquatic habitats of the Chesapeake Bay
- Enter data from sampling efforts into the database
- Conduct short term tank studies of fish trap sampling efficiency
- Presentation to NCBO staff at the conclusion of the internship summarizing work conducted

Requirements

- Willingness to engage in physically demanding work, typically taking place outdoors on a boat
- Knowledge of and/or comfort in using reference sources on flora and fauna of the Chesapeake Bay
- Interest and/or background in water quality monitoring and instrumentation
- Motivated self-starter with ability to work and reason independently
- Must be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and willing to undergo a security background check

Work Location and Duration

This position will be stationed out of the Cooperative Oxford Lab, in Oxford, Maryland. The position will begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August (12 weeks). Computer and phone services will be provided.

Compensation
The intern will be reimbursed at the end of each month, for a total of up to $4,500 for the equivalent of 12 weeks of full-time activities (480 hours). Funds are available to compensate interns for occasionally required work-related travel. Candidates should expect to follow a normal weekday work schedule (roughly 9-5, M-F) with occasional variations for possible field work or other activities. No benefits are provided. A small housing stipend is available for those needing it, and we offer assistance in arranging local housing.

Application Instructions
Applicants are instructed to register with the Chesapeake Jobs online application website: http://communitymodeling.org/bayjob/ to apply. You will be instructed to submit a resume and cover letter, along with three references. The deadline for applications is February 19, 2016.