

Position Title: Fisheries Biologist

Job Location: NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Job Classification: Non-Exempt

Job Type: Full-time

Position Description:

IMSS is seeking a field research biologist to support ongoing and special projects designed to better understand the abundance, habitat preferences, movements, and health of managed wildlife species in the Cape Canaveral, Florida region as part of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Ecological Program and special projects supporting NAVY. The majority of work is to assist with life history studies of managed coastal fishes related to our KSC-NAVY project, but may also include KSC work with alligators, sea turtles, sediment, seagrass, and water quality sampling.

This position will be based at Kennedy Space Center with job duties that require demonstration of a strong academic rooting in estuarine and marine sciences as well as a complementary set of practical field skills. The selected candidate must be authorized to work in this country.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Help deploy, retrieve, and maintain a network of submerged passive acoustic receivers in the Canaveral section of the Florida Atlantic Coast Telemetry Array
- Support and potentially lead a monthly longline survey targeting coastal sharks, red drum, and other federally managed fish species
- Assist in the deployment, navigation, retrieval, and maintenance of a Wave Glider autonomous surface vessel (www.liquidr.com)
- Enter field collection data into MS Access databases
- Assist in organization and maintenance of KSC Ecological Program field house
- Periodic support for animal health assessments and demographic studies of above mentioned animals; as well as water quality, seagrass, and sediment sampling.
- Aid in development of manuscripts to be submitted into peer-reviewed journals

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education / Training:

- MSc in Biological Science or related field or a BS degree and previous practical experience in fisheries science.
- Minimum one year experience working with a field-based research team
- Internationally recognized SCUBA diver certification

Knowledge / Skills / Abilities:

- Small boat operation, maintenance, and trailering ability
- Ability to safely and efficiently complete shallow-water boat-based SCUBA dives
- Help maintain a fleet of small research skiffs
- Able to maneuver heavy equipment and lift loads up to 70 pounds
- Ability to plan, prep, and eventually lead field sampling events
- Familiarity with passive acoustic telemetry technology including acoustic receiver setup, deployment, download, and retrieval
- Taxonomic identification skills of Florida's coastal fishes
- Previous experience with multiple fisheries field sampling gears
- Background in animal handling and tagging techniques, surgical implantations of acoustic transmitters in fishes
- Operation and calibration of scientific instruments (CTD meters, turbidity and chl a sensors, GPS units)
- Experienced with or capable of deploying, operating, and maintaining Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (e.g., Wave and Slocum Gliders, REMUS)
- Previous scientific writing experience
- Strong quantitative skillset, particularly statistical techniques used in wildlife management
- Public speaking/conduct periodic presentations to a variety of audiences

- Familiarity with common professional software including Word, Excel, Access, and statistical packages
- General understanding of federal and state regulations that govern fisheries management in Florida

Working Conditions:

Work will occur primarily on weekdays during daylight but will sometimes require irregular hours with project-specific start and stop times. Occasional night work can be expected. Field operations can include uncomfortable conditions including boat operations in an open coastal setting and shallow-water SCUBA diving in sub-optimal visibility. Summer work in Florida can also be hot and buggy.

Complies with all Company safety policies and site-specific safety procedures. Participates in and supports the IMSS safety program. Ensures safe operating conditions within area of responsibility. Identifies potential hazards, concerns, and safety incidents and reports to supervisory personnel.

IMSS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug-Free Workplace