

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

careers.wa.gov
Working for Washington State

Permanent Scientific Technician 2 *01760-13

SALARY: \$2,426.00 - \$3,041.00 Monthly

OPENING DATE: 02/14/13

CLOSING DATE: 02/22/13 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.

Additional Salary Information
The salary range reflects a 3% salary reduction for state employees over the 2011-13 biennium, which was passed by the Legislature effective July 1, 2011 through June 29, 2013.

THE DEPARTMENT

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

This is a permanent full-time Scientific Technician 2 position in the Fish Program, Hatchery Support Division. The duty station is the Natural Resource Building, Olympia, WA.

This position supports the Otolith Lab by organizing and archiving specimens, grinding/polishing otoliths for microchemistry and thermal mark interrogation, collecting field data, spawning ESU salmon stocks, etc. The position also conducts field and lab activities to collect fish and shellfish samples for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program's toxicology studies.

DUTIES:

Duty: Otolith Lab and Ageing Unit

Tasks include: responsibility for a majority of specimen set up and preparations (this requires ability to accurately perform repetitive fine motor functions for long durations); tracking specimens thru the lab; monitoring consumables' inventory. This position is a major participant in preparing otolith sections for microchemistry analysis. Otolith sectioning requires knowledge of salmonid ontogenic growth, normal and aberrant otolith formation and growth, and the ability to apply variances in those parameters to sectioning.

Duty: Field Work and Coordination - Otolith Lab and Ageing Unit

Tasks include: collect and accurately record biological measurements and data including but not limited to otoliths, scales, virology, DNA, length, weight, sex; safely lift, drag, relocate, and handle live and/or dead salmon up to 50 lbs.; exposure to inclement weather; exposure to traffic conditions; monitor water chilling systems; instruct and/or lead field crews; communicate and work closely with leads and staff from other agencies who assist with field work; spawn salmon; fertilize gametes; work with balances, portable water chillers, water pumps, water delivery systems, various types of salmon egg incubation vessels, dissecting tools, and specimen storage containers.

Utilizing existing procedures and practices, this position assumes lead in coordinating field work. Duties include but are not limited to maintaining field sampling gear; assembling field sampling kits; communicating and coordinating with participating outside agencies, universities, RFEGs, and volunteers; suggest modifications to lab, field, and record keeping protocols as needed.

Recommend changes to existing protocols to increase efficiencies and staff safety.

Duty: Thermal Code Creation – Otolith Lab

Tasks include: With input of senior Otolith Lab staff, this position assumes the lead in creating unique thermal mark codes for delegated salmon stocks.

Duty: Lab Work – PSEMP

Tasks include:

Is responsible for all aspects of PSEMP sample processing. Applies standard operation procedures for clean sampling techniques to conduct tissue resections of field sampled fish and invertebrates. Creates samples of tissues or other matrices for analysis of toxic contaminants. Organizes and tracks frozen specimens; Collects biological metrics and body part such as scales, opercles, and otoliths from various species.

Duty: Field Work – PSEMP

Tasks include: use standard operating procedures to assist in the collection of a wide range of fish and invertebrate species in Puget Sound, to support an ongoing, long-term program to monitor toxics in the Puget Sound food web. This also includes sampling fish tissues on board vessels.

Working Conditions

The work schedule for this position is Monday - Friday, 8-5, travel is 25 percent of the job duties with some overnights and some work outside core hours. Laboratory work is done in a laboratory setting – exposure to lab equipment and to chemicals.

Field working conditions:

Stream surveys - exposure to elements; ability to carry fish weighing up to 50lbs over uneven and fluvial terrain; encounters with apex predators.

Sampling aboard marine vessels – exposure to elements, marine hazards including conditions that can cause motion sickness

Hatchery work – spawning knives, salmon teeth, dissecting tools

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.

Preferred candidate will have work experience in the following areas:

- A minimum of two years laboratory and field experience in dissecting, retrieving, preserving sectioning and reading salmonid otoliths.
- Knowledge of otolith dissecting techniques for all life stages of fish. Must be able to demonstrate ability to dissect and orient both sagittal otoliths from a salmonid fry (preserved in ethanol). Special preference will be knowledge and ability to dissect both sagittal otoliths and both lapillar otoliths.
- Working knowledge of creating otolith thermal marking schedules and the application individual hatchery conditions. Requires working knowledge of artificially chilled water delivery systems and the effect of chilled water on developing salmonid embryos.
- Knowledge of the use of standard operating procedures to assist in the collection of a wide range of fish and invertebrate species in Puget Sound, including the sampling fish tissues on board vessels.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

To apply for this position you MUST complete your profile at 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)

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. 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.

Please note that initial screening will be solely based on the completeness of application materials submitted and the contents and completeness of the **“work experience”** section of your application in NeoGov. A resume will not substitute for the “work experience” section of the application. The information provided in your application must support your selected answers in the supplemental questions. Responses not supported in your application may disqualify you from consideration for employment in this position. All information will be verified and documentation may be required.

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 *01760-13 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 a minimum of two years or more laboratory and field experience in dissecting,

retrieving, preserving sectioning and reading salmonid otoliths?

Yes No

* 4. Do you have a minimum of two years or more of knowledge working with otolith dissecting techniques for all life stages of fish?

Yes No

* 5. Do you have a minimum of two years or more working knowledge of creating otolith thermal marking schedules and the application individual hatchery conditions?

Yes No

* 6. Do you have a minimum of two years or more working knowledge of artificially chilled water delivery systems and the effect of chilled water on developing salmonid embryos?

Yes No

* 7. Do you have a minimum of two years or more working knowledge of the use of standard operating procedures to assist in the collection of a wide range of fish and invertebrate species in Puget Sound, including the sampling fish tissues on board vessels?

Yes No

* Required Question