



POSITION DESCRIPTION

RESEARCH BIOLOGIST (FULL TIME)

INTRODUCTION

The incumbent functions as a researcher under the Director of Research and Conservation (Senior Scientist) at Florida Oceanographic in the general area of marine ecology. The incumbent will perform a variety of field and laboratory tasks involving research in marine ecology focusing on seagrasses, oysters and related ecosystem functioning.

DUTIES

- Develops, implements, and maintains research and restoration projects to further the organization's mission in Florida's coastal ecosystems. Projects will be performed in water quality, bivalves, mangroves and seagrasses, with a strong emphasis in seagrass and oyster ecology.
- Maintains on-site seagrass nursery and conducts experiments with live plants.
- Performs field and laboratory research on the ecology of seagrass plant species.
- Conducts experimental and observational research in long-term seagrass and oyster monitoring plots.
- Develops, implements, organizes and maintains a citizen science seagrass monitoring network.
- Organizes, coordinates and leads research field trips.
- Selects and adapts appropriate methods and techniques including experimental design and data control for field and laboratory experiments.
- Conducts data analysis, data presentation, and the writing of peer reviewed journal articles, including the preparation of poster and oral presentations for the dissemination of Florida Oceanographic research.
- Assists with the training and supervision of students, visiting scientists, volunteers, and other professionals in the marine ecology laboratory and on field research trips.
- Expands and secures funding related to research and conservation initiatives.
- Assists other institution departments with research-based outreach events and programs.

FACTORS

Knowledge required

A PhD is required in an ecology or marine science related field, with at least 4 years of experience in such field. The position requires professional knowledge of the field of biology and concepts and theories of marine ecology, and ability to apply this knowledge to perform field and laboratory tasks involving research and restoration, focusing on seagrass communities, oysters and long-term monitoring. The incumbent must have a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, grant writing and reporting, and giving oral presentations. This position also requires knowledge of 1) use of laboratory and field instrumentation in aquatic ecological studies, 2) basic methods of computer data entry and use of standard spread sheets, statistical and graphics packages, 3) methods of data analysis and presentation of research data, and 4) manipulating large data sets, synthesizing data, and

creating standardized time series. The incumbent must have strong organizational skills, including ability to prioritize, consistently meet deadlines, and complete tasks independently.

Supervisory Controls

Incumbent works under the general supervision of the Senior Scientist at Florida Oceanographic. The supervisor sets the overall objectives and resources available. The incumbent is responsible for planning and carrying out assignments and coordinating the work with others as necessary. The incumbent uses background knowledge and judgment to select and adapt methods and piece together the best techniques applicable to various research problems. Judgment is required in ensuring quality control of data and observations; originality is evidenced in developing modifications and improvements to established procedures. Ability of incumbent to work independently for prolonged periods after general instructions is essential. Incumbent must assume initiative for coordinating laboratory and field activities, training students and volunteers, and managing data. The incumbent keeps the supervisor informed of progress and potential problems that arise. Completed work and reports are reviewed to evaluate overall results.

Guidelines

Relevant Florida Oceanographic policies and procedures are followed; safety issues are paramount. Data analysis and management procedures follow established instructions from Senior Scientist.

Complexity

The work includes varied duties in both field and laboratory settings. The incumbent should be skilled at the maintenance and the use of a variety of specialized laboratory instruments. A variety of complex tasks involving field sampling techniques and laboratory experiments and analyses are required. Accuracy of data collected is essential. The incumbent will be involved in management, training, and supervision of other personnel working in the marine ecology laboratory. Judgment in coordinating personnel and training students requires evaluation of individual abilities. Detailed, technically complex procedures for computer operation, data management, and data analysis are required. The work requires skills in setting priorities and carrying out projects to completion.

Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to assist the Senior Scientist in conducting research and restoration and advancing knowledge in Florida's coastal ecosystems. The employee's work has a significant impact on the progress and quality of research being conducted in marine ecology at Florida Oceanographic and in presentation and publication of findings.

Personal Contacts

Within the FOS contacts are with staff, visiting scientists, interns, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and volunteers. Contacts may also involve a variety of scientists from state or federal agencies and academic institutions. Incumbent also introduces scientific visitors to Florida Oceanographic and the general public to the research ongoing in marine ecology.

Purpose of Contacts

The purpose is to interact with collaborators and other scientists to advance research in marine ecology and to impart scientific information to persons or groups. Contacts are for exchanging factual information, coordinating task execution on schedule, reporting problems, transferring data, communicating purpose and scope of ongoing research programs.

Physical Demands and Work Environment

The work involves prolonged periods of both physically active field research and sedentary laboratory research. The ability to lift, push and carry a minimum of 50 lbs, and work in harsh environments and inclement weather are required. A current driver's license is required, and the ability to operate vehicles (e.g. truck, boat and trailer, kayak) are recommended. Incumbent may be involved in field operations from research vessels or small boats. Incumbent may be called upon for local, domestic or international travel to obtain specimens, conduct field research or attend scientific conferences. Incumbent may need to perform field or laboratory work on weekends, and/or longer than the standard 8-hour work day.

Benefits

This is a full time position. After a 60 day introductory period, incumbent is eligible for a 401k with company matching, medical plan, paid holidays and paid leave. Dental and vision are not included.

Application

To apply, please submit via e-mail your cover letter and CV, a statement of research interests, the names and contact information of three references, and the [FOS employment application](#) to Dr. Lorae T. Simpson (Lsimpson@floridaocean.org) by **November 6, 2020**.

Additional information about the Florida Oceanographic Society and Department of Research and Conservation can be found at <https://www.floridaocean.org/> and <https://www.floridaocean.org/research-conservation>, respectively.