



Habitat/Fisheries Assessment 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 2011 (12 weeks) to assist with field work on living resources of the Chesapeake Bay. Since its creation in 1992, NCBO has supported the Chesapeake Bay Program by providing science, service, and stewardship of the natural resources of the Bay. Our 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. This research has resulted in the accumulation of spatially referenced habitat characterizations and a vast number of digital images representing the diverse flora and fauna of the Bay.

The intern will primarily support the Office's habitat assessment/fisheries priorities. A significant amount of time will be spent sampling and documenting fish populations in Chesapeake Bay tributaries. The position entails a monitoring component including fisheries and invertebrate sampling on reef and shoreline habitats using several sampling techniques. Some data entry, literature review and other administrative tasks will also be assigned as needed. The intern will also have the opportunity to assist NCBO staff in benthic mapping exercises, underwater grass sampling, and conducting Bay-focused outreach lessons for k-12 students.

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, ecology, hydrology, and chemistry. 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
- ✓ 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 Chesapeake Bay
- ✓ Experience in Web-based research
- ✓ Experience in data management and analysis a plus
- ✓ 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

The Intern will work at NCBO in Annapolis, MD; access to computers, copiers, and phone services for the position will be provided. The person must be a US citizen and will be reimbursed at the end of each month, for a total of up to \$3840 for the equivalent of twelve weeks of full time activities (480 hours). Some hours will be variable due to the nature of field work. Candidate should be flexible as plans may change due to weather. No benefits or vacation reimbursements will be provided.

Please submit a short cover letter, resumé, and two references (phone numbers and e-mails) to Dave Jasinski at Dave Jasinski, PO Box 1295, Gloucester Point, VA 23062 or through e-mailing djasinsk@gmail.com by March 15, 2011.