



Spatial Ecology 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 2015 (12 weeks) to assist with spatial analysis, spatial data management, and field work on habitat and living resources 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. This research has resulted in the accumulation of spatially referenced habitat characterizations that describe diverse flora and fauna of the Bay.

The intern will primarily support the Office's habitat assessment/fisheries priorities, including ecosystem services of oyster reefs. Most of the time will be spent using basic GIS tools to assess seabed habitat metrics at fish sampling sites, metadata preparation, and archiving habitat mapping data. The position also entails a field work component including some fisheries sampling and seabed mapping on oyster reef and other habitats.

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 GIS techniques, habitat assessment, and spatial data management. These experiences will provide a strong background in conservation biology, GIS, and habitat 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

- Extract habitat metrics from seabed survey data collected tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay
- Identify relationships between habitat and fish community sampling data
- Create metadata and archive raw seabed survey and GIS data
- Presentation to NCBO staff at the conclusion of the internship summarizing work conducted

Requirements

- Knowledge of and/or willingness to learn basic GIS and Statistics
- 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
- 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
- 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 NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, 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 20, 2015.