



Position Announcement Postdoctoral Research Associate

Date Issued: Oct. 15, 2019

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate—Fisheries Ecology

Location: Cordova, Alaska

Background: The mission of Prince William Sound Science Center is to advance community resilience and the understanding and sustainable use of ecosystems. The Prince William Sound Science Center is located in Cordova Alaska, a coastal fishing town of 2200 people that is also home to the Native Village of Eyak. Commercial salmon fisheries are the cornerstone of the local economy. The region also supports subsistence and sport fisheries of various species. Located on Prince William Sound, the town is adjacent to the Copper River Delta with most of the surrounding lands belonging to native corporations or the Chugach National Forest. Access to Cordova is by boat or plane. Daily commercial jets service the community and there is seasonal ferry service to the Anchorage area.

Cordova is a vibrant community that actively supports the arts with regular cultural events and celebrations. With its spectacular scenery, Cordova is an outdoors-oriented community with a non-profit downhill ski hill, saltwater swimming pool, recreation and fitness center, hiking and ATV trails, as well as backcountry and water-based recreational opportunities. Cordova is a family-friendly community whose elementary school has received a National Blue Ribbon award, and whose junior-senior high school regularly wins state awards and competitions. There is a diverse scientific community that includes the Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Native Village of Eyak, and other non-profit organizations.

Position Description: The Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC; www.pwssc.org) is accepting applications for a Postdoctoral Researcher. PWSSC desires applicants who are interested in and capable of building a successful program of research over time by seeking funding from a variety of sources. The successful candidate, after demonstrating exceptional scholarship through a record of publication, collaboration, and grant seeking, will ideally be invited to transform the role into that of a full-time Principal Investigator.

The successful applicant will join the Herring Research and Monitoring (HRM) team and work in partnership with supervisor Dr. Mary Anne Bishop. The Herring Research and Monitoring program is a long-term research effort studying Pacific herring in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The long-term goal of the program is to improve predictive models of herring stocks through research and monitoring. The program is funded by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council and coordinated by the Prince William Sound Science Center. The program has completed five years of research that focused on overwintering success of age-0 herring, and is three years into a second, five-year phase with a focus on the connection between herring and environmental conditions. The program is intended to run for a total of twenty years.

The applicant will be expected to plan, lead and conduct a behavioral or population ecology project on Pacific herring. The applicant will also work on the Pacific herring migration study that uses acoustic telemetry to clarify the annual migration cycle of Prince William Sound adult herring. The successful applicant will be expected to draw data from existing herring research and collaborate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Gulf Watch Alaska (<http://www.gulfwatchalaska.org/>), and other sources as necessary. The successful applicant will be expected to generate peer-reviewed publications. They will be responsible for submitting reports and annual proposals as required by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council and NOAA. They will be expected to assist in the HRM program coordination activities, which requires working with all members of the HRM research team, but their primary role is to conduct research. The successful applicant must be willing to go to sea at least twice a year for 6-12 d research cruises in PWS.

Qualifications: The applicant must have completed a Ph.D. in fisheries science, ecology, or a related discipline. Successful candidates will be expected to have a proven record of peer-reviewed publications. Must be proficient analyzing data using line scripting language (R, Python). Statistical background essential. Candidates must be authorized to work in the United States for any U.S. employer and must be prepared to prove their authorization to work in accordance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security requirements.

Compensation: Monthly wages: \$5,000 plus benefits. Benefits include medical, dental, and vision insurance, paid leave, and employer matching up to 6% of salary in a 403b retirement savings plan that has a ladder vesting schedule. The position is to be housed at the Prince William Sound Science Center and based in Cordova, Alaska.

Duration: This is a full-time, exempt position supported by a grant with two years of anticipated funding. Funding of the position is reviewed and committed annually and may extend in duration if the candidate is successful in securing additional funding.

Starting Date: Between December 2019 and January 2020.

Review of applications begins: 1 November 2019. The position is open until filled.

To apply: Send a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and relevant skills, a curriculum vitae, and two to four references (including names, phone numbers and email addresses) to Dr. M.A. Bishop at researchpositionfish@pwssc.org. Contact Dr. Bishop with any questions you may have about this position.

For more information about the Prince William Sound Science Center, go to: www.pwssc.org. Full position announcement available for download as a PDF at <http://pwssc.org/about/jobs/>.