

Employment Opportunity - Summer 2012

Position Description

Organization Name: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF)

Position Title: Field Technician (1 position)

Project: Mahone Bay Roseate Tern Recovery Project (RTRP)



Mahone Bay Roseate Tern Recovery Project

A single site in Mahone Bay once supported one-third of the Endangered Canadian Roseate tern population. This colony was abandoned in the mid 1990's and Roseate terns have not knowingly nested in Mahone Bay since. The goal of the Mahone Bay Roseate Tern Recovery Project (RTRP) is to provide a secure nesting site for this species in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

Human development and predation threaten the survival of Roseate terns that nest on islands in Mahone Bay. The management of human activities and predators is necessary to prevent the loss of breeding sites and the potential extirpation of the Roseate tern in Canada. In 2012, the Mahone Bay RTRP will continue its stewardship program on Grassy Island and will monitor other islands in Mahone Bay with a tern presence. Roseate terns are the main focus of this project; however, since they nest in mixed colonies with Common and Arctic terns, we monitor all three tern species. In addition to research, the RTRP intently focuses on public education and outreach.

Specific Duties/Activities:

- Monitoring tern distribution, abundance, movement, productivity, and reproductive success a maximum of three times per week from May-August.
- Monitoring gull distribution, abundance, and productivity.
- Performing gull deterrence activities on Westhaver and Grassy Islands.
- Establishing tern decoys, nesting boxes, and sound system on Grassy Island.
- Posting signs to educate boaters on seabird nesting areas and the symbol associated with them.
- One-on-one public consultations with recreational boaters who visit the Mahone Bay Islands, or those at public boat launch sites, to increase awareness of the presence of Roseate terns in Mahone Bay as well as the RTRP.
- Public consultations with youth in the surrounding area through presentations to schools, yacht clubs, environmental groups, etc. to educate them about Roseate terns.
- Attending local festivals, events, and public meetings to showcase the project and to increase awareness of the issues surrounding the project.
- Development of educational materials.
- General office/cleaning duties are expected to be done in spare time.
- A final report based on project results from the 2012 field season.

Requirements:

- Must be flexible and be able to adapt to a changing work schedule.
- Must be willing to perform all job duties.
- **Must be comfortable with gull deterrence activities which include gull nest and egg destruction.**
- Must have strong writing skills and attention to detail.
- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle (some flexibility available).
- Must be able to work as part of a team as well as independently.
- Must be able to manage time efficiently.

Assets:

- Current First Aid Certificate.
 - Previous boating experience/Small Craft Operators License.
 - Familiarity of Mahone Bay Islands.
 - Experience conducting field surveys.
 - Ability to identify seabirds common to the South Shore of Nova Scotia.
- ** Assets are not required to be considered for this position****

Other:

- Might require out of town travel (travel costs will be reimbursed).
- Housing in the Lunenburg area is limited, but available if you are flexible.
- Majority of field work requires boating throughout Mahone Bay with high exposure to the sun.

Education and community awareness is one of BCAF's main goals and activities. As part of the BCAF team, successful applicants will be responsible for doing their part in helping deliver BCAF's education and awareness messages. This could take the form of drafting appropriate project related material for inclusion on the BCAF website, representing BCAF and the projects at various festivals and events throughout the summer, delivering project presentations at various meetings, and/or conducting youth presentations/activities in local schools.

BCAF is seeking applicants who are energetic, motivated, and have a background in biology, environmental science, or other related disciplines. Successful applicants will be comfortable in communicating with land owners and the general public, as well as have a love and appreciation for nature and working outdoors. RTRP field work involves boating, walking on slippery rocks, and amongst nesting seabirds. It also requires the destruction of gull nests and eggs (by permit), occasionally working early mornings, and rarely working evenings and weekends. Assistance on other BCAF projects will be required throughout the summer as needed.

If you are interested in joining our small team of dedicated individuals to re-establish an endangered species in Nova Scotia through research, education, and action then you are the one we are looking for! Please include a resume and cover letter detailing your experience and/or interest in seabird conservation.

Application Deadline: Friday, February 3rd, 2012

Work Term: April 30th to August 31st, 2012

Location: Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Salary: \$13.00/hour for a 35 hr work week

For more information please contact:

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