

Employment Opportunity - Summer 2016

Position Description

Organization Name: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Position Title: Field Technician (1 position)

Project: American eel and elver study



American Eel and Elver Project

Beginning in 2009, Coastal Action has annually monitored American eel and elver numbers in Oakland Lake, Mahone Bay and East River, Chester.

Elver component (*April-mid July*): Continuing in 2016, an elver abundance survey in the East River, Chester in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the commercial elver license holders will be conducted. Coastal Action will work with fisheries management, commercial fishers, and the community towards a sustainable elver and eel fishery. Elvers will be captured in live traps during their migration up river, volumetrically counted, and released above the falls. Biological monitoring of elver individual weight, length, and pigmentation will also take place on a regular basis. Environmental conditions such as air and water temperatures, rainfall, weather, and tide cycles will also be recorded. The field technician will assist with trap placements, checking traps daily, volumetric estimates, biolocal sampling, and recording data.

Silver eel component (*mid August-October**): A silver eel escapement study has been conducted annually in Oakland Stream (exiting Oakland Lake) since 2009. All eels migrating from Oakland Lake are captured in the trap and a number of measurements are recorded for each individual eel. The East River, Chester, silver eel escapement study began in 2014 and is ongoing. A number of traps are placed throughout the East River watershed to tag and recapture eel. The field technician will assist with placing traps, checking traps daily, tagging and measuring eel, recording data, and sacrificing eel.

Specific Duties/Activities:

- Monitoring American eel elver recruitment/abundance in the East River, Chester and Oakland Stream, Mahone Bay
- Biological sampling of elver 3x per week throughout duration of the study
- Inputting data to spreadsheets
- Biological sampling of captured adult eel
- Attending local festivals, events, and public meetings to showcase the project and to increase awareness of the issues surrounding the project
- Development of project specific educational / outreach materials
- A final report based on project results from the 2016 field season

Requirements:

- Must be flexible and able to adapt to a changing work schedule
- Must be available on weekends
- Must be willing to perform all job duties
- Must be comfortable working in all weather conditions (rain or shine, night or day)
- Must be comfortable with sacrificing elver / eel for research purposes
- Must have strong writing skills and attention to detail
- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle for work purposes
- Must be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Must be able to manage time efficiently
- Must maintain a positive attitude! 😊

Assets:

- Current First Aid Certificate
- Previous boating experience/Small Craft Operators License
- Experience conducting field surveys, fisheries projects, etc.
- Ability to identify fish species common to Nova Scotia
- Proficient use in Microsoft Excel

**** Assets are not required to be considered for this position****

Other:

- This project is very field intensive. The successful candidate will be expected to be available and ready to work 7 days a week, and occasionally unfavourable hours (early mornings and late nights). Exceptions apply, permitting availability of another person.
- Housing in the Lunenburg area is limited, but available if you are flexible.
- Majority of work requires being outside, so be prepared for cool mornings, wet weather, or hot sun.

Education and community awareness is one of Coastal Action's main goals and activities. As part of the Coastal Action team, successful applicants will be responsible for doing their part in helping deliver the organization's education and awareness messages. This could take the form of drafting appropriate project related material for inclusion on the Coastal Action website, representing Coastal Action 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.

Coastal Action 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 the public, as well as have a love and appreciation for nature and working outdoors. American eel project field work is very intensive. The project requires the sacrifice of elvers and adult eel for sampling purposes (by permit), and occasionally working early mornings, evenings, and weekends. Assistance on other Coastal Action projects will be required throughout the summer as needed.

If you are interested in joining our team of dedicated individuals to monitor species at risk in Nova Scotia through research, education, and action then you are the one we are looking for! Please include a resume and covering letter detailing your experience and interest in the American eel project.

** Ideally the student will work full time from April to October 31; however, students returning to school in September may also be considered.*

Application Deadline: Friday, February 5th, 2016

Work Term: April 1 to October 31, 2016* (dates are negotiable & finalized upon offer of employment)

Location: Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Salary: \$14.00/hour for a 35 hr work week

For more information please contact:

Brooke Nodding, Executive Director
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
37 Tannery Road
P.O. Box 730, Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0
Phone: (902) 634-9977
Fax: (902) 634-9979
Email: brooke@coastalaction.org

OR

Danielle Pernette, Project Manager
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
37 Tannery Road
P.O. Box 730, Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0
Phone: (902) 634-9977
Fax: (902) 634-9979
Email: danielle@coastalaction.org