

Employment Opportunity – Seasonal – 2018

Position Description

Organization Name: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Position Title: Junior Field Technician (1 position)

Project: American Eel and Elver Projects



Overview

Coastal Action has been monitoring American eel and elver since 2008, conducting annual studies on multiple stages of the American eel lifecycle. American eel have a fascinating and complex life cycle. Eggs hatch in the Sargasso Sea, and the larvae make their way along the coast down as far as Venezuela and up to Greenland. Elvers migrate upstream into rivers and streams beginning in early spring and into summer. The eels spend years in the river system as yellow eel, the juvenile phase, until they mature into silver eels. Once silver, these eels migrate downstream and head back to the Sargasso Sea where they will ultimately spawn and die. Coastal Action's current studies focus on both the upstream (elver) and downstream (silver) migration phases of American eel. These studies contribute to the development and maintenance of eel and elver indices, understanding the effects of commercial fishing on eel production, understanding the biological characteristics and age structure of elver and eel in Nova Scotia, as well the prevalence of the invasive parasite (*Anguillicoloides crassus*) in Nova Scotia rivers and watersheds. The studies are guided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Science Branch, and all information is shared with the commercial license holders.

Responsibilities

The Junior Field Technician will work under the direction of the Senior Field Technician, Blaire Slaunwhite, and the Project Manager, Danielle Pernette, to set and maintain traps, check traps daily or as needed, and assist with collecting and recording data. The project requires the sacrifice of elver and adult eel for sampling purposes, and occasionally working early mornings, evenings, and weekends. Assistance on other Coastal Action projects will be required throughout the summer as needed.

Elver component (April-July): Monitoring annual elver recruitment to the East River, Chester. Elvers will be captured in live traps during their upstream migration, counted, and released upstream. Sampling and biological monitoring of elver weight, length, and pigmentation will take place regularly over the course of the season.

Silver eel component (August-November): Monitoring annual silver eel escapement in Oakland Stream and East River, Chester. American eels migrating downstream are caught in various traps throughout late summer and fall. Silver eels are counted, PIT tagged, and biologically sampled and sacrificed as needed.

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.

Specific Activities:

- Setting and maintaining traps
- Monitoring American eel and elver, daily – including weekends and the occasional evening
- 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

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 Office

**** 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 during the height of the field season, including occasional early mornings and late nights. *Exceptions apply, permitting availability of another person and discussion with Project Manager. Any time worked over 35 hrs/week will be eligible as timeoff in lieu.*
- Majority of work requires being outside, so be prepared for any weather
- During the "off" season, the Junior Field Technician will be recruited to work on other projects at Coastal Action, work on the development of project reports, and help deliver outreach activities.

Coastal Action is seeking applicants who are energetic, motivated, and have a background in biology, environmental science, or other related disciplines. May be available as a university co-op position. Successful applicants will be comfortable in communicating with the public, as well as have a love and appreciation for nature and working outdoors. Again, American eel project field work is very outdoor and field intensive.

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 cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the American eel project.

Application Deadline: January 29, 2018

Work Term: April to December 2018 (dates are negotiable & finalized upon offer of employment)

Location: Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Salary: \$15.00/hour for a 35 hr work week

Please submit a cover letter and resume as a single document.

For more information please contact:

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