

Coastal Stream Monitoring Intern (2 positions)

Duration: March 29, 2010 – August 27, 2010 (22 weeks)

Location: One intern will be focused north of Boston (roughly from Boston to Gloucester) and the other south of Boston (from Quincy to Orleans).

Project Background: Anadromous and catadromous fish (e.g., alewife, blueback herring, American shad, rainbow smelt and American eels, respectively) are declining throughout the Northeast due to water withdrawals, loss and degradation of habitat, water pollution, migration barriers, overfishing, and predation. Climate change now poses an additional threat to these temperature-sensitive species that spend part of their life cycle in fresh and estuarine waters, because such shallow water bodies will likely experience changes in water temperature, water level and seasonality related to climate change – yet there is no comprehensive state-wide program to monitor these basic indicators of climate change in fish runs. To fill this gap, this project installs low-cost HOBO dataloggers and develops an outreach website as part of a new, inter-regional long-term program to monitor water temperature and water level in fish runs in the Mass Bays Program (MBP) area to dovetail with current volunteer fish count efforts in the MBP regions.

The interns will be responsible for collecting information vital to understanding anadromous fish populations in Massachusetts coastal streams. Duties will include assisting with volunteer management, field work including counting anadromous fish and maintaining dataloggers, and data acquisition and organization from both the fish counts and dataloggers. This position is frontloaded with regard to time required. From March 29-May 31 you will be counting fish twice a day, at twelve to thirteen streams a week. We anticipate this will take ~20 hours each week, over the course of two to three days. From June 1 – August 27 you will be taking flow measurements and assisting with data collection and analysis. The work expectation for this period is 10 hours/week.

Project Tasks

- Assist Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) regional coordinators with maintenance and data retrieval from temperature and water level dataloggers deployed in project streams
- Assist with coordination of volunteer fish monitors in your coverage area
- Provide fish counts at project streams to supplement volunteer data collection
- Measure flow in project streams for development of flow duration curves
- Assist Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) regional coordinators with data entry in Excel and online database

Required and Desired Qualifications

- Must have a vehicle, a valid driver's license, and be willing to drive long distances between field sites. No additional funds will be provided for fuel/mileage.
- Must be willing to work in variable outdoor conditions; project requires wading in flowing streams
- Must have experience using Microsoft Excel
- Experience with coastal stream ecology preferable
- Experience with fish counts and/or streamflow monitoring preferable
- Experience with online databases preferable

Stipend: \$2,250

To apply, please submit a CV (including education and any relevant experience) to NSRWA, Attn: Sara Grady, PO Box 43, Norwell, MA 02061 or e-mail to sara@nsrwa.org. Please indicate whether you are interested in working north or south of Boston (or either.) **Application deadline: March 15, 2010**