

# Salmon Watersheds Lab

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



## Fisheries Technician I

### JOB DESCRIPTION

The Salmon Watersheds Lab at Simon Fraser University is seeking to fill a seasonal Fisheries Technician position to work on the Koeeye River Salmon Ecosystems Project. The project is a multi-organization collaboration studying various aspects of the Pacific salmon life cycle in the freshwater and estuarine environments. The project operates a smolt trap in the spring to enumerate and tag outmigrating sockeye and coho salmon, a weir in the summer and fall for enumerating and tagging returning salmon with a special focus on sockeye, a watershed-wide Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) network for tracking fish movement, an estuary fish community monitoring program, conducts multi-watershed spawner surveys, and various other projects at Koeeye and surrounding systems.

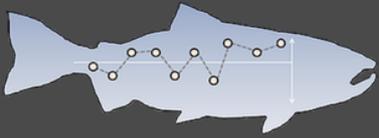
We are seeking a hard-working, adaptable, enthusiastic, and dedicated individual interested in working in a remote field setting on a variety of salmon related projects. Applicants must be willing to live and work at a remote field station on the Central Coast of British Columbia under rustic living conditions with limited access to internet, electricity, and telecommunications and in close quarters with other field research staff. Applicants must be able to perform strenuous manual labor in all kinds of weather conditions and be comfortable working in the river, on boats, and in dense rain forest. Applicants must be comfortable working in a wilderness setting where the possibility exists to encounter wildlife such as brown bears, black bears, wolves, and cougars during the course of work activities. Applicants must be able to lift 50lbs and carry packs up to 50lbs for extended periods over rough terrain.

We are primarily seeking an individual to assist with field operations during the spring smolt season (April through June), but there may be the opportunity to extend work through the fall (until November) depending on workload, availability of local staff, and the applicant's performance in the field. There may also be opportunities for work in the lab processing samples collected in the field, analyzing scale samples, and performing data management activities prior to and after primary field work.

Travel to and from field site, food and accommodations in the field, wading gear and other safety equipment, and onsite training will be provided. Potential for other training opportunities prior to beginning of field season.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assisting the project lead and other field staff in daily research activities, including:
  - Identifying, counting, measuring and tagging fish
  - Installing and operating fish traps
  - Beach seining for juvenile and adult fish
  - Data recording and entry



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## PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES CONT.

- Assisting the project lead and other field staff with camp maintenance activities, including:
  - Light construction projects
  - Trail maintenance
  - Chopping firewood
  - Loading and unloading boats
  - Packing gear to and from different camps
  - Maintaining equipment and infrastructure
  - Gathering drinking water, cooking, and cleaning camp

## OTHER POTENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

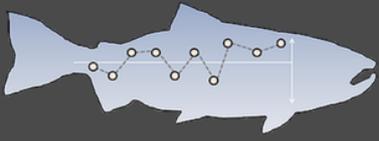
- Leading field staff in activities in the absence of project lead
- Working independently on field or lab activities as necessary
- Processing of field samples in the lab at Simon Fraser University
- Fish dissection and tissues sample collection
- Mounting otoliths in resin moulds
- Analyzing scale samples
- Processing stomach contents
- Preparing stable isotope samples
- Data management and sample organization
- Assisting partner organizations on other work projects
- Interacting with and/or performing outreach activities with local community members

## REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Pursuing education in fisheries, biology, or other natural resource field
- Hard-working, motivated, critical thinker, and safety minded
- Ability to live and work in a remote wilderness setting
- Ability to live and work with a diverse team from different backgrounds and cultures
- Ability to perform strenuous, outdoor manual labor in variable weather conditions
- Ability to lift 50lbs and carry heavy pack loads over rough terrain
- Comfortable working in and around swiftwater and boats
- Comfortable working with and sampling live animals (fish)
- Able to safely operate hand and power tools such as hammers, axes, and drills
- Able and willing to work long hours for extended periods

## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience performing fisheries field work
- Experience working in the backcountry
- Experience working in and around water



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## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS CONT.

- Boating experience (power boats and canoe/kayak)
- First aid (wilderness preferred) and CPR training
- Experience working in a laboratory setting
- Experience with data entry and management
- Ability to think on one's feet (creative problem-solving skills)
- Effective communication and outreach skills

## SALARY

\$135 - \$165 daily rate for field work depending upon experience

\$15 - \$20 per hour for lab and office work depending upon experience

## FIELDWORK DATES

**April 6 – June 26, 2020:** Primary field deployment, with the potential for extension of field season (or in combination with lab and office work) to October 31st and a potential to perform pre-field lab activities depending upon applicant's willingness and experience.

Undergraduate students who would still be taking classes after the April 6th start date are still encouraged to apply as accommodations for classes and exams could be made.

## TO APPLY

Please send a **resume**, **cover letter**, and **three (3) references** to Karl Seitz (Field Program Manager) at [kmseitz422@gmail.com](mailto:kmseitz422@gmail.com)

**Applications will be accepted until 5pm PST, Wednesday Feb 26, 2020.**

## MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on the Salmon Watersheds Lab please visit <https://www.jonwmoore.org/>
- A brief description of the Koeye Project can be found at <https://coastfunds.ca/news/heiltsuk-nations-koeye-river-fish-weir-revives-traditional-fishing-practices/>