Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) group at FWC - Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Research Assistant Position Announcement

The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Program at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute invites applications for a Research Assistant to support varied monitoring and research activities focused on a diversity of HABs in Florida’s estuarine, coastal, and offshore systems. The successful candidate will maintain and help deploy/recover oceanographic equipment and instrumentation, participate in interdisciplinary fieldwork, and be responsible for vessel operation, maintenance, and trailering. They will also support ongoing collaborative lab and field activities by conducting robust data collection and/or analysis and interacting with databases as needed. The full-time hourly position is located in St. Petersburg, FL.

Job Description

The employee will be responsible for supporting field campaigns, including:

- maintaining, calibrating, and operating oceanographic field equipment (YSIs, CTD packages, in situ chlorophyll sensors, HOBO loggers, others) with flow-through, in situ, and/or vertical profiling and logging capabilities;
- crewing and captaining small vessels in both inshore and offshore environments on day trips and serving as crew on multi-day efforts (≥1 week), participating in other fieldwork as needed;
- supporting ongoing directed studies by conducting both routine monitoring and event response efforts involving collection of seawater and environmental data according to specified protocols;
- designing, fabricating, and/or installing new infrastructure (e.g., on vessels, in labs, telemetered, as part of SOPs) to facilitate use of HAB instrumentation (including those listed above, Imaging Flow CytoBots, others) for a diversity of research projects and monitoring efforts;
- providing support by downloading and processing data from instrumentation, entering and maintaining data to high standards in databases, proofing data, and conducting data analysis as needed for specific projects;
- performing basic laboratory duties (e.g. lab maintenance, preparation of field sampling kits);
- working independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced work environment, with solid communication skills;
- playing a supporting and collaborative role in lab and field experiments; and
- completing duties in a timely manner, prioritizing work assignments with supervisor’s assistance, and multitasking as needed.
Minimum Requirements
Minimum qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in one of the physical or life sciences (e.g. marine science) and experience with small vessel trailering, captaining, and maintenance (minimum 100 hours aboard small vessels 18’ ? 28’).

Preferred Experience

- Expertise in the use and maintenance of oceanographic instruments and in integrating new field sampling tools into routine monitoring; conducting necessary validation exercises and developing or following associated standard operating protocols.
- Prior participation in water quality monitoring efforts, including serving as science crew on large vessels and crewing, trailering, maintaining, and operating small vessels with knowledge of basic seamanship, boat-handling and navigation, and watercraft safety.
- Knowledge of database systems (Access and/or SQL) and programming languages (Matlab, R, and/or Python) and ability to provide basic database and programming support for field and lab research activities and learn new related skills as needed.
- Experience working with standard water quality and oceanographic laboratory equipment and techniques.

Where To Apply
Applicants are required to 1) submit a complete, up-to-date, State of Florida Employment Application Form electronically in People First (http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com) by the closing date listed (May 12); and 2) please provide a single PDF containing a cover letter and resume or CV to the following email address: fwrihab19@gmail.com. You must complete both steps to submit a complete application. Supporting documentation may be submitted at the same time you are applying (online, faxed, or mailed) to People First, but does not replace the requirement for a completed State of Florida Employment Application Form.