



WESTPORT FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1983 WESTPORT MASSACHUSETTS

Position Available

SUMMER SALT MARSH INTERN

Background

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is partnering with the Marine Biological Laboratory Ecosystems Center (MBL), the Westport Fishermen's Association, and the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program to examine rapid salt marsh loss in the Westport Rivers, which flow into Buzzards Bay. The water quality of both rivers, like most estuaries around the Bay, suffers from nutrient overenrichment from various sources including septic systems, agricultural runoff, stormwater, and lawn fertilizer. There is anecdotal evidence of salt marsh degradation and partial collapse in portions of the Westport Rivers. This project will use a three-prong approach in order to better define the extent of salt marsh loss and to examine whether nutrient pollution may be contributing to the salt marsh loss. The information gained will provide important insight for the Town of Westport, concerned citizens, and natural resource managers.

Position Description

The Salt Marsh Intern is responsible for performing the core elements of a three-part project to investigate salt marsh loss in the Westport Rivers. First, the Salt Marsh Intern will work with guidance from partners at the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program to develop a historical timeline of salt marsh loss and upland land use changes based on aerial imagery. Second, the intern will work with partners at MBL and Westport Fishermen's Association to develop and execute a field sampling plan to assess potential causes of salt marsh loss. This component of the project will be informed by comparing the aerial imagery analysis with timing of coastal storms, the rate of sea level rise, upland development, changes of sediment inputs and nutrient delivery. The third and final component of the project will be performing laboratory analysis of the samples collected with guidance from MBL scientists and summarizing the results into a concise final report and presentation.

This full-time, temporary position will be employed by the Buzzards Bay Coalition and report directly to Linda Deegan, and Christopher Neill, Scientists at the MBL, while working closely with project partners. The Salt Marsh Intern will have a desk at the Buzzards Bay Center in

New Bedford but will also spend significant time in the field in Westport and at the MBL lab facilities in Woods Hole. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Communication with all project partners.
- Quantifying areas and rate of salt marsh loss based on aerial images.
- Collection of field data (e.g., creek width) and water and sediment samples.
- Laboratory processing and analysis of field samples.
- Data entry, organization, and quality check.
- Summarizing the results into a concise final report and presentation.

Qualifications

The successful applicant will have at least two years of college training, preferably with environmental science topics. Applicants with experience collecting environmental field samples and performing laboratory analysis of environmental samples will be given preference. The Salt Marsh Intern will need to be capable of working both independently and as part of a team. Excellent communication and organizational skills are required. Applicants must be comfortable working under physical conditions in the field. The Salt Marsh Intern will need to have his/her own reliable transportation to get to and from field sites and partner organizations.

Salary/Benefits

This is a full-time, temporary, at-will position hosted by the Buzzards Bay Coalition for 8-10 weeks over the time period of June 10 to August 19, 2016. The intern will be compensated with a stipend of \$500 per week. There is an option for subsidized housing. No health insurance or other benefits are available.

To Apply

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to: Rachel Jakuba, Buzzards Bay Coalition Science Director at jakuba@savebuzzardsbay.org

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Posted April 2016. The position will remain open until filled.