



POSITION IN SHELLFISH RESEARCH AND RESTORATION AVAILABLE

Job Title: Research Assistant

Closing Date: Open until filled

Job Overview

The Gulf Shellfish Institute (GSI) is a non-profit, scientific research organization based in Palmetto, Florida dedicated to advancing shellfish aquaculture and restoration. GSI aims to facilitate, support and encourage increased production of shellfish in the Gulf region for both economic and environmental benefit. GSI believes that high quality seafood produced in an environmentally sustainable fashion can boost coastal economies, preserve and strengthen working waterfronts, improve coastal water quality, and support adjacent marine habitats.

We seek a motivated Research Assistant to support our shellfish research and restoration efforts as GSI embarks in a state-wide initiative to evaluate the efficacy of co-restoration strategies for bivalves and seagrass. The successful applicant will support a variety of ongoing applied research projects in both field and laboratory settings. This position will report to the Executive Director, or other GSI Staff as determined by the Executive Director.

Responsibilities & Duties

Essential duties for this position include:

- Field data collection aboard vessels and in-water work using SCUBA and snorkel
- Laboratory sample processing and data analysis
- Maintenance of aquaria and land-based systems supporting applied research and restoration
- Travel to scientific meetings and conferences using either personal or commercial vehicles
- Communicate research goals and outcomes to industry partners, legislative bodies, and the general public

Additional duties (as assigned by the Executive Director) may include:

- Administrative support
- Project management
- Experimental and field survey design
- Statistical analysis
- Community outreach and fundraising
- Social media and website management
- Grant, report, and publication writing
- Presentations at professional meetings

Qualifications

Minimum requirements:

- B.S. in marine science or related field
- Research experience in laboratory and field settings
- Knowledge of subtropical coastal ecosystems and organisms
- Independent, reliable, and self-motivated worker

- Time management and organizational skills to assist staff with multiple projects simultaneously
- Ability to work in hot, humid, and adverse conditions
- Ability to work in-person and remotely
- SCUBA certification

Preference will be given to applicants with:

- M.S. in marine science or related field
- Extensive marine field experience, particularly with shallow, benthic habitats
- Experience with bivalve shellfish
- Relevant scientific skills (GIS, genetics, biogeochemistry, R, etc.)
- Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences
- Evidence of strong scientific writing ability

Compensation

Salary Range: \$45,000-60,000

This is a full-time, one-year position with pay commensurate to qualifications. The position may be extended depending upon grant funding. The position includes voluntary enrollment in a 3% employer-matching 403(b) retirement plan. There are no other fringe benefits.

How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter, including two professional references, and a CV/resume **as a single PDF** to:

Dr. Stephen Hesterberg
Executive Director
hesterberg@gulfshellfish.org