



PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Area 2 Fisheries Management Division
172 Fish Hatchery Lane
Telephone: 814-755-3890

Position: Fisheries Biologist Aide (FBA)

Date Posted: December 28, 2020

Status: Short Term (Seasonal) - (26 week position)

The Fisheries Management Area 2 office in Tionesta, PA announces the availability of one paid seasonal position for the summer/fall 2021 field season. The duration of the position is approximately 26 weeks and/or 15 pay periods. The position is expected begin on April 5, 2021 and end on October 1, 2021. This is a grant funded position and thus the duration of employment is contingent on remaining available funds.

Position Description:

The position involves assisting Fisheries Management Area 2 staff in various tasks, primarily conducting field surveys of lakes and streams throughout Northwest Pennsylvania. Fieldwork sometimes involves long hours, travel to field survey locations using Commission vehicles, occasional overnight travel (reimbursed by Commission), and at times working in inclement weather. Some boat electrofishing surveys will be conducted at night, usually ending around 3:00 a.m. The Area 2 office will provide the necessary fish survey and safety apparel (e.g., waders, raingear, personal flotation devices, electrofishing gloves).

Position Title	Fisheries Biologist Aide (FBA)
Position Type:	Paid, Summer Position (2021 Field Season)
Position Duration:	April 6 - October 1; (26 weeks)
Office Location:	PA Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries Management Area 2 172 Fish Hatchery Lane Tionesta, PA 16353
Starting Wage:	\$14.25/ hour
Hours Per Week:	37.5 hrs./week (no paid holidays); some overtime may occur for fieldwork
Work Hours:	8 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday (for office work); variable hours for fieldwork
Supervisor:	Brian Ensign, Fisheries Management Area 2 Fisheries Biologist

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct fish sampling that may include use of flatbottom boat electrofishers, backpack electrofishers, trap nets, and other gear.
- Assist in traversing streams and small rivers with waders while collecting fish and/or while transporting sampling gear (backpack electrofishers).
- Perform field measurement of fish catch rate and other biological attributes (age, mortality) for a variety of fish species in rivers, streams and reservoirs.
- Conduct field measurement of fish habitat (RBP) and basic water quality attributes (D.O., temperature, pH, conductivity, and total alkalinity) of streams, rivers, and reservoirs in conjunction with fish sampling.
- Perform laboratory processing of fish samples that include: (1) use of a dichotomous key to identify fish specimens not identifiable under field conditions, (2) pressing scales and interpreting fish age from magnified scale impressions or magnified otolith sections.

- Observe and assist in data assembly and summary associated with fish data sets and data processing associated with other statewide monitoring and planning activities.
- Enter fish sampling data into statewide agency database.
- Mobilize/demobilize equipment to survey sites.
- Perform general maintenance and repair of small engines (electrofisher generators), outboards, boats, boat trailers, and sampling equipment. Performs cleaning/AIS disinfection on boats, vehicles, and sampling equipment.
- Some office duties will involve the Microsoft suite of software.

Qualifications:

Our office is seeking a responsible and dependable individual who meet the following qualifications:

- B.A. / B.S. degree in natural sciences, biology, fisheries, wildlife, environmental sciences, or ecology (or equivalent experience). Recent graduates, graduate students, and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.
- Well-developed computer skills (e.g., Microsoft Office software, GIS).
- Writing, editing, and organizational skills.
- Ability to perform manual labor including lifting objects up to 50 pounds.
- Sufficient physical stamina to conduct field investigations on the water, in rough terrain, under adverse weather conditions
- Willingness to work as part of a collaborative research team.
- Selected candidate will be required to obtain three background certifications prior to employment with PFBC: Child Abuse, Criminal History, and FBI/Fingerprint Certifications.

Working Conditions:

- Work may involve travel within the region. Overnight lodging and subsistence will be reimbursed.
- Flexibility in working schedule, including willingness to work evenings.

Application Instructions:

Applicants should submit a resume along with a cover letter describing their interest in fisheries management. Applicant should also provide the phone numbers and emails of three references. This information should be submitted by email to Brian A. Ensign at bensign@pa.gov and include in the email subject heading "FBA Grant Position".

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Candidates will be interviewed and notified promptly after the interview. If you have any questions about this position, please contact Brian Ensign at 814-445-3454.

Short term (seasonal) positions, such as this, provides an excellent opportunity to gain experience working on a variety of projects for a state fisheries agency. Many of our full-time fisheries staff started their careers as seasonal staff.

Applications must be submitted no later than February 15, 2021.

PFBC Fisheries Management Area 2 Map:

Fisheries Management Area 2

Office Address:
Route 62
HCR2, Box 1
Tionesta, PA 16353

