

Research Technician Job Announcement

N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve
Beaufort, NC

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Coastal Management's N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) is seeking a qualified individual to join the Reserve team as a Research Technician. This temporary position will work out of the Reserve's Headquarters at the NOAA Beaufort Lab, located on Pivers Island. The successful applicant will be an employee of Temporary Solutions and will work 40 hours/week, for no more than 11 consecutive months in any 12-month period, followed by one month of unpaid leave. Funding for this position is guaranteed for 11 months. The pay range is set at \$17.50-\$22.00/hour, based on qualifications. This position currently qualifies for a hybrid telework option with routine office and remote workdays; telework options are subject to change at the discretion of management. Working at the Reserve's Headquarters requires a federal background check to obtain security clearance.

The position will support the Reserve's research, stewardship, and resiliency programs. The position will assist with monitoring and assessments of resiliency projects and provide general geospatial support to the program, helping conduct spatial analysis to inform coastal ecosystem management. The ideal candidate will possess experience in field-based ecological research and application of remote sensing and/or other geospatial techniques in coastal environments to help monitor natural and nature-based features in coastal ecosystems. A strong background in marine sciences is preferred with specific experience in field monitoring, assessment surveys, and geospatial analysis.

Core Responsibilities

- Implement monitoring plans associated with Reserve research and restoration projects
- Provide general GIS support to the Reserve program
- Assist with remote sensing surveys in a variety of coastal ecosystems, including salt marshes and oyster reefs using uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) and/or their data
- Conduct *in-situ* ecological surveys using traditional methods, including transects, quadrats, and GPS
- Conduct water quality equipment calibrations and deployment, data acquisition, and quality assurance/control activities
- Manage data and help conduct analyses using a suite of approaches to perform accuracy assessments and detect change in indicator metrics
- Contribute to peer-reviewed publication(s), presentations, and reports

Qualifications

Required knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Bachelor's degree in one of the agricultural, biological, engineering, environmental or natural resource sciences or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution; or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Knowledge of marine science and coastal ecosystems
- Experience working in ArcGIS and conducting geospatial analysis
- Ability to perform fieldwork in remote and harsh environments, often on small boats, and lift over 50 lbs
- Experience with standard productivity software platforms including but not limited to Microsoft Office (i.e., MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint)

- Highly-organized, detail-oriented, and able to multi-task and manage time to achieve project objectives, meet deadlines, and work independently and collaboratively.

Preferred skills:

- Experience with ArcGIS Online
- Experience conducting ecological monitoring and remote sensing in coastal ecosystems
- Experience conducting statistical analyses in R, Python, Matlab, or equivalent
- Experience in two- and three-dimensional image analysis techniques like photogrammetry
- Strong organizational and data management skills including experience working with large data sets and computationally complex tasks
- Demonstrated excellence in written and oral scientific communication
- Experience with small boat operations

Application Process

To apply, send a cover letter, résumé, and contact information for three professional references to Justin Ridge at justin.ridge@deq.nc.gov by 5:00 p.m. EST February 23, 2024.