

## MARINE FISHERIES BIOLOGIST I

This is professional work involving the coordination of fisheries projects involving the collection, analysis, and evaluation of fisheries data within a district in the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Employees participate in a variety of major, well-defined fisheries management programs and research projects and exploratory fishing designed to preserve the State's commercial fish and shellfish stocks and to enhance the State's commercial fishing industry. Employees work under the general direction of a higher level biologist and/or district manager performing work such as the daily planning and implementation of on-site sampling and field data collection, statistical analysis, the taxonomic identification of organisms, and report writing. Work involves identifying samples of fish to determine size, distribution, and abundance of marine and estuarine resources. Employees work independently and have considerable input into decisions affecting fisheries management. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level biologist. Work may include other duties as assigned.

### I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work is generally assigned within one of the primary areas of fish, crustaceans or shellfish. Employees perform a wide range of functions including developing the research project, determining and implementing sampling schedules and procedures to obtain biological data, supervising technicians in the collection of data, collecting and compiling data, preparing project reports, and participating in developing plans and policies for interstate fisheries management organizations and the State Marine Fisheries Commission. Projects involve rivers, estuaries, sounds, creeks, and the Atlantic Ocean. Work involves considerable public contact.

Intricacy - Work involves the selection and use of various sampling techniques, equipment, and data gathering methods, and the sorting and identification of marine organisms. Work includes assignments representative of all phases of the study process including problem identification, planning, organizing, scheduling, conducting, analyzing, and documenting results.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires the practical application of biological principles to research studies involving all phases of fisheries management. Employees must also be knowledgeable of marine fisheries regulations and statutes and all phases of the commercial fishing industry and recreational fishing interests.

Guidelines - Employees apply professional principles and practices, divisional policies and procedures, and scientific standards for taxonomic identification.

### II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - In existing projects where employees serve as study team members, employees receive general instructions on project objectives from the study team leader.

Nature of Review - Work is technically reviewed periodically through discussions of progress and reviews of technical reports for the appropriate selection of sampling techniques, equipment used and analysis of data.

Scope of Decisions - Study results, analysis, and management recommendations are used by higher level biologists and management to prepare reports, set or revise fishing regulations, initiate corrective actions, or develop fisheries management strategies. These would, in turn, impact on the commercial fishing industry and individual recreational fishers.

Consequence of Decisions - Errors in the collection and analysis of data could result in incorrect study conclusions. Any errors could affect the establishment of regulations or the development of fisheries management strategies.

### III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Work requires contacts with other division and department staff, representatives of other state and federal agencies, members of the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing interests and the general public.

Nature and Purpose - The primary nature of contacts is to gather and discuss information. Contacts with the public are usually to gather data and to discuss and explain fisheries management decisions and regulations.

### IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - While performing fieldwork employees may be exposed to inclement weather, glare, mud, water and occasionally irate commercial or recreational fishers.

Hazards - Employees are exposed to the potential for boating and driving accidents. Laboratory procedures may result in exposure to hazardous toxic chemicals.

### V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of marine biological principles and marine ecology as they relate to the study of fisheries management and estuarine biology; considerable knowledge of taxonomic identification procedures, sampling techniques, and the operation of sampling and laboratory equipment; considerable knowledge of commercial and recreational fishing techniques; general knowledge of U. S. Coast Guard rules and regulations governing navigation and use of coastal water; ability to design and implement moderately complex study plans or field surveys; ability to analyze data, to interpret statistical analysis, and to develop management recommendations; ability to prepare technical reports; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other marine fisheries organizations, commercial and recreational fisheries, staff personnel, and the general public.

#### Minimum Education and Experience Requirements –

Bachelor's degree in marine biology, fisheries science or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of experience in related environmental work; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

#### Minimum Education and Experience Requirements for a Trainee Appointment:

Bachelor's degree in marine biology, fisheries science, or a closely related curriculum; from an appropriately accredited institution; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

#### Special Note –

This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.