**Fisheries Health Technician**

**Pacific Salmon Foundation**

**Broughton Aquaculture Transition Initiative Project**

**About**

The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), founded in 1987, is a federally incorporated non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon and their natural habitats in British Columbia and the Yukon. Operating independently from government, the Foundation facilitates dialogue and undertakes positive initiatives in support of Pacific salmon amongst all levels of government including First Nations; as well as industry, communities, individual volunteers and all fishing interests.

PSF is currently involved as a 3rd party contractor being appointed by the ’Namgis First Nation to conduct the Broughton Aquaculture Transition Initiative (BATI) project, a research/monitoring project implemented by three Broughton Area First Nations (Kwikwasut’lnuxw Haxwa’mis First Nation, Mamalilikulla First Nation, and ‘Namgis First Nation) and interfacing with two Salmon Aquaculture companies located in the area, as well as the Province of British Columbia and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The goal of the BATI is to restore wild Pacific salmon populations in the Broughton Area, and a major objective is to monitor the aquaculture operations in the Broughton Archipelago with respect to the their impacts on wild salmon population and the surrounding environment.

**Position Overview**

We are looking for an additional fisheries technician to join our team of two technicians and one lead veterinarian. The main task of the position consists in the collection of tissue samples from farmed fish as well as environmental DNA (eDNA) from the water at farm sites and hatcheries. Sampling will take place 2-4 days per week during the sampling periods and the candidate will likely rotate sampling events with other technicians, leaving a minimum of two technicians at the time in the field. Other non-field work duties include ordering supplies, checking inventory, shipping samples and preparing for the next sampling dates. All preparations for sampling will be completed out of the BATI/PSF office in downtown Nanaimo. Applicant should be willing to work out of the Nanaimo. The position is contract based at 35 hours per week and is set to start in October 2021 and end March 1st, 2022, with the possibility of an extension. The position is salary based at $50,000 annually plus benefits and 3% RRSP matching.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

* Conduct sampling at hatcheries and fish farms for fish tissues, eDNA, and associated metadata
* Analyze specimens for any potential abnormalities
* Plan and prepare equipment for fish health sampling and eDNA collection at hatcheries and fish farms
* Ensure proper labelling, handling, shipping, and Chain of Custody protocols for fish health and eDNA samples
* Complete inventory and order supplies following the ’Namgis protocols

**Qualifications, Skills and Abilities**

* A minimum of a bachelor’s degree in fisheries, biology, natural resources or related field. Previous experiences with Fisheries and Aquaculture topics, as well as Fish Health subjects, will be highly considered.
* Knowledge of Fish Anatomy, with particular emphasis in Salmonids
* Knowledge of Fish Pathology (optional) and dissection techniques
* Knowledge of Molecular Biology and Genetics assay techniques and procedures
* Ability to use Word, Excel and other Office software
* Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
* Availability to work overtime and weekends, in either office or field settings (with different environmental conditions) and willingness to travel by car, boat or airplane and collect samples in remote locations on board boats
* Demonstrates initiative, problem solving and leadership skills as well as strong communication skills. Team player, ability to learn and adapt, and comfortable working in tight quarters and/or alone
* Experience working collaboratively with First Nations
* Valid BC Driver licence

**Applicant Instructions**

If you are interested please send a cover letter and resume to edicicco@psf.ca and ensure to include “Fisheries Technician” in the subject line.

The application deadline is September 10th, 2021. Only successful candidates will be contacted.