



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Biscayne National Park

Position #: 7

Position Title: Biology Assistant

Position Type: Mosaics PLC

Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences

Position Keywords: Fisheries, fishery management, field biology, interactions with the public

Location: Homestead, Florida

COVID-19 NOTICE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to postpone start dates, begin work remotely, or reformulate the project's description. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project's timeline or results, the SIP Team will work with the park and project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: We seek an intern to conduct Recreational Fishing Creel Surveys within Biscayne National Park to assess the status of targeted fishery resources, the efficacy of new fishing regulations, and the extent of visitor compliance to fishing regulations. New regulations were enacted in July of 2020 to improve the status of targeted species and the habitats they utilize, both of which have long been acknowledged to be in decline due to a variety of factors.

Creel surveys are vital to: i) monitoring fishing effort and resources in the park, ii) determining if visitors are compliant with the new regulations, iii) providing outreach to uneducated visitors, and iv) assessing if the new regulations are improving the fishing experience. The intern will be trained in the creel survey methodologies and identification of commonly harvested fish species. They will be expected to operate from the local public marinas that feed into Biscayne National Park and interact with park visitors as they return to the marina from their day of fishing. The intern will ask a series of questions about the fishing experience, then examine landings to obtain data on sizes and numbers of species landed. The intern would be expected to conduct creel surveys during the peak fishing days each week (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

For the remaining two days per work week (either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday), the intern will work closely with other Natural Resource Management staff to gain a well-rounded exposure to various natural resource management activities within Biscayne National Park. Specific tasks will vary from week to week, but will likely include at least some of the following activities: a) monitoring and protection of threatened and endangered sea turtle nests; b) providing top-side support and data collection assistance for park SCUBA operations focused on in-water fish surveys and non-native lionfish removals; c) collection of water samples for salinity monitoring, red tide assessments, and/or ocean acidification studies; d) marine debris clean-ups from coastal (beach and mangrove) and marine (shallow reefs and seagrass) habitats, and e) survey and trapping efforts for non-native reptiles such as green iguanas, tegus, and Burmese pythons.

For all assigned tasks, the intern will be responsible for neat, complete data collection, database entry, and proper filing of hard copies of data. Should the intern demonstrate the need/desire/capabilities to conduct data analyses, the mentor will guide the intern in completion of data analyses and summary statistics. Examples of data analyses include catch per unit effort, average size of harvested species over time, and occurrence of violations (for creel data).

Work Products: At the end of this internship, the intern will have completed creel surveys on high-traffic fishing days (Fri, Sat, Sun) with an estimated minimum of 10 interviews completed per day (but likely much higher). The creel survey database will be updated (by the intern) so that fishing activity and landings trends collected during the summer can be compared to past years (before the new fishing regulations were implemented) when creel surveys were previously completed. If the intern is interested (or required, depending on which type of internship this project could qualify for), a summary report based on summary statistics and data analysis would also be expected.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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This work will occur primarily outdoors at local marinas that provide entry into Biscayne National Park. The intern will be stationed at boat ramps for afternoon shifts. As this work will occur in the summer of South Florida, the intern can expect to work in hot and humid conditions with full sun and an occasional passing rain storm. Job hazards include exposure to extreme heat, dehydration, scratches or punctures from fish and lobster fins/spines, and slipping and falling on boat ramps.

BISC is located in Homestead, Florida. Homestead was once quite rural but has become heavily developed lately, so various amenities (hospital, shopping, grocery stores, movie theaters, restaurants etc.) are all available and within a 10 to 15 mile drive from park headquarters. If the intern is staying in park housing, a car is recommended since amenities are not within walking distance.

QUALIFICATIONS

This internship is geared towards those with coursework and/or degrees in biology, environmental science, marine science, ecology, and other similar disciplines. Much of the creel survey work will be independent, and as such, the intern must demonstrate a strong work ethic, a responsible nature, and good decision-making skills. Due to the multi-cultural nature of Miami-Dade County, the ability to speak another language, particularly Spanish, is considered an ideal qualification. The intern must be comfortable working outdoors in extreme temperatures, riding and working on boats and being in and on the water for extended amounts of time. Individuals prone to seasickness should not apply. Lastly, because the intern will need to drive government vehicles to access the local marinas to conduct creel surveys, a valid driver's license is needed.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veterans up to age 35. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is recommended for this position.

HOUSING

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. The park housing is a shared 2-bedroom unit with full kitchen, bathroom, dining, closets/storage and living areas, and laundry room.

Each bedroom can house up to 2 people, although current COVID policies restrict to one person per bedroom. The housing unit might be co-ed, but bedrooms are always same sex.

The housing unit is immediately adjacent to park headquarters building, so the commute to work is a simple walk across the parking lot.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 05/16/2022

End Date: 08/08/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes

Eleven weeks of the internship will be in the park. A mandatory Professional Development Workshop will be held in Washington, D.C. from August 1 - 4, 2022.

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 weeks (\$600/week=\$7,200)

Partners



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This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.



PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAS

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