Shellfish Management Internship Opportunity

Joint Position with SC Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy

Project Description

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are looking for a qualified intern to assist with a 6-month research project to explore options for increasing the sustainability of the commercial oyster harvest on state shellfish grounds (SSGs) in South Carolina. The intern will work closely with SCDNR staff to review fisheries dependent and independent data, including historical landings data and previously conducted SSG assessments as well as data on oyster demographic data (e.g., size-frequency distributions, rates of recruitment and natural mortality). Analyzing temporal trends of ground status, such as when SSGs were open for multiple consecutive years and incorporating qualitative assessment data and environmental data, the intern will assist shellfish managers in estimating sustainable harvest levels on individual SSGs. The intern will also research various adaptive management techniques and provide resource managers with the outcomes from comparing the effectiveness of different management methods for sustainably managing SSGs.

Project Duties

- Use statistical analyses to estimate a sustainable level of harvest on SSGs based on historical landings, SSG assessment data and environmental data.
- Use the estimated sustainable levels of harvest to research output control options at individual SSG, regional, and statewide scales.
- Research adaptive management techniques. Assess equitability and identify drawbacks and benefits of different techniques.
- Create a final report stating project findings, including sustainable harvest levels, consequences and benefits of pursuing various adaptive management scenarios, that will offer SCDNR information to aid in its determination as to the most effective way to manage the fishery.

Required Skills & Qualifications

- Currently enrolled at a local college or university with a major in marine biology, environmental studies, mathematics or other applicable field
- Working knowledge and understanding of basic fisheries management
- Experience conducting statistical analyses
- Experience analyzing complex quantitative data
- Ability to work alone with limited oversight
- Highly organized and motivated

Work Environment

This position will be located primarily at the Marine Resources Division of SCDNR at 217 Ft Johnson Rd.

Hours/Compensation

This is a 6-month, part-time internship with an expected 20 hours per week at a rate of $12 per hour.

To apply, please send resume to Andrew Hollis, hollisa@dnr.sc.gov. Preference will be given to local students (coastal SC).

Position open until filled.