



NOTICE OF UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY

MARICULTURE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SCIENCE CENTER (PWSSC)

Expected full announcement: Summer 2024

Duration: 2024-2026 minimum

Background: Our mission is to advance community resilience and the understanding and sustainable use of ecosystems. We live and work in Cordova Alaska, a coastal fishing town on the southeastern side of Prince William Sound and adjacent to the Copper River Delta. Cordova is home to 2200 people including the Native Village of Eyak and is only accessible by boat (Alaska Marine Highway System) or plane (Alaska Airlines). Commercial salmon fisheries are the cornerstone of our local economy and the mariculture industry is growing.

Cordova is a small-town community that is creative and outdoorsy. One can have too many hobbies. We are home to a non-profit downhill ski hill, saltwater swimming pool, recreational center, numerous hiking trails, and a glacier-adjacent lake for magical kayaking and ice skating. Cordova is family-friendly with an award-winning elementary and junior-senior high school. The scientific community of Cordova includes the Native Village of Eyak, Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other non-profits.

Position Description: This position is funded by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) from settlement funds after the oil spill earmarked for restoration of the spill affected area. The applicant would join the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (Mariculture Recon) Program, a team of researchers and seaweed/shellfish farmers that are addressing ecological effects of the budding mariculture industry. The role of the applicant would be to collate data from across this program (ocean chemistry, zooplankton, benthic, fish, birds, mammal data) and other EVOSTC-funded programs, perform statistical modeling/analyses, and draw conclusions about how farm expansion in the spill area may affect PWS. Analyses would aim to 1) evaluate compiled data for time-series trends, differences between farms and control sites, and categorize ecosystem dynamics in PWS, 2) calculate variation between seasons and years, 3) forecast the effects of farm expansion on ecosystem dynamics and local abundance of species of concern, 4) determine if there is a 'farm carrying capacity' for PWS bays, and 5) examine model usage for other regions. The goal of this position is for the applicant to seek promotion with the PWSSC beyond the end of this project. Therefore, the hope is that the hired postdoctoral researcher would seek grant funding beyond this project and establish a research program that supports their work into the future with the support of PWSSC. PIs operating with PWSSC are 95% soft-funded.

Qualifications: The applicant must have completed a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline. Successful candidates will be expected to have a record of peer-reviewed publications and experience working within the field of mariculture and with statistical modeling. Candidates must be authorized to work in the United States for any U.S. employer and must be prepared to prove their authorization to work in accordance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security requirements.

Compensation: Minimum starting salary DOE of \$5500/month. Benefits include medical, dental, and vision insurance, paid leave, and employer matching up to 6% of salary in a 403b retirement savings plan that has a ladder vesting schedule.

Contact if interested: Alysha Cypher, PhD., Biologist, acypher@pwssc.org, 907-424-4258