



## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

**Date Issued:** 4/15/2024

**Position Title:** Postdoctoral Research Associate – Mariculture

**Location:** Cordova, Alaska

**Expected Duration:** 2 years minimum

**Start Date:** 7/1/2024-7/1/2025 (open until filled)

**Background:** The Prince William Sound Science Center's (PWSSC) 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 (PWS) and adjacent to the Copper River Delta. Cordova is home to 2500 people including the Native Village of Eyak and is only accessible by boat (Alaska Marine Highway System) or plane (jet service is currently provided by 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. Our community is home to a non-profit downhill ski hill, saltwater swimming pool, recreational center, numerous hiking trails, and lakes for kayaking and ice skating. Cordova is family-friendly with an award-winning elementary and junior-senior high school. The local scientific community includes the Native Village of Eyak, USFS Chugach National Forest—Cordova Ranger District, the 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 that have been competitively awarded to support research, monitoring, and economic development in the spill affected area. The applicant would join the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (Mariculture ReCon) project, an interdisciplinary 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 project (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 the ecosystems of 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. This position offers flexibility to pursuing grant funding and other projects as agreed upon by the institution.

The goal of this position is for the applicant to seek promotion at PWSSC beyond this project by establishing a research program that supports their mission-related work into the future.

**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 fields related to mariculture and 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 of \$5500/month dependent on experience. 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. Wages are dependent on the continued availability of grant funding.

**To apply:** Please submit a cover letter detailing your interest in the position and relevant experience, a CV, and 2 references (including name, phone number, email) to Alysha Cypher ([acypher\[at\]pwssc.org](mailto:acypher[at]pwssc.org), 907-424-4258) Review of applications will begin May 1, 2024, but the position will be open until filled.

Please see our [website](#) for more information about our organization or contact Dr. Alysha Cypher with questions.

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