

TITLE: IEC Seasonal 2021 Intern

EMPLOYER: Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC)

LOCATION: Interstate Environmental Commission laboratory in Brooklyn, New York, western Long Island Sound boat surveys which depart from Port Washington, New York and boat and land-based water quality monitoring surveys throughout New York-New Jersey Harbor.

BACKGROUND: The Interstate Environmental Commission comprehensively addresses water quality issues and priorities in the IEC jurisdictional waters in the tri-state area (NY, NJ, and CT). IEC performs a diverse array of water quality projects that include ambient water quality monitoring surveys, compliance inspections, laboratory analyses, public education and outreach.

JOB SUMMARY: Assist with field, laboratory, and office work associated with IEC's seasonal water quality monitoring activities in IEC's District (tri-state area). Activities are generally water quality oriented, but can cover a wide range of environmental issues, according to program needs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The intern will participate in water quality monitoring surveys associated with projects based in western Long Island Sound and upper East River, as well as New York Harbor and its tributaries. It is anticipated that interns will be primarily assigned to either Long Island Sound monitoring program or New York-New Jersey Harbor monitoring program, depending on qualifications, experience and preference. Tasks associated with both programs will include:

- Participating in boat-based surveys and utilizing portable monitoring equipment (YSI multi-parameter sondes) to take field measurements and the collection of ambient water samples. Western Long Island Sound boat surveys depart as early as 5:00am (sunrise-dependent) from Port Washington, New York up to twice a week. Harbor monitoring surveys occur weekly, and incorporate both land and field-based water sample collection.
- Assisting with the preservation and transport of samples to the laboratory or laboratories and the filtration and processing of samples for shipment and storage, as required.
- Assisting with laboratory analyses of water samples in accordance with established procedures and methods.
- Assisting with pre-sampling calibration of equipment (YSI Pro DSS or YSI EXO 1 multiparameter meters), and post-sampling calibration checks.
- Performing laboratory preparation of bottles, coolers, equipment, quality control activities, and housekeeping, as necessary.
- Maintaining a system to track sample receipt via courier (i.e., FedEx), log-in samples, confirm receipt with shipper, and coordinate return shipment of coolers to monitoring groups submitting samples to the IEC laboratory.
- Additional fieldwork, laboratory analyses, data entry, report generation and office work, as necessary.

Support IEC's other monitoring program projects related to citizen science, habitat restoration, and other projects, including:

- Participate in and support IEC's volunteer pathogen monitoring program in near-shore areas in the IEC District.

- Field monitoring of a pilot eelgrass site off of Staten Island, New York, which involves wading up to chest-deep to perform *in situ* measurements and perform video surveys.
- Performing maintenance, data downloads, calibration checks, and cleaning of continuous monitoring equipment

Assist with the production and organization of documents and materials related to IEC's projects for dissemination to stakeholders and the public, including:

- Project summaries, data summaries, presentations, website and printed newsletter updates.
- Meeting materials
- Organization and scanning of IEC's historical reports

EDUCATION: Minimum of 3 years towards a Bachelor's Degree in environmental science, biology, or closely related field. Bachelor's degree preferred.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ideal applicants will be highly motivated, detail-oriented, and flexible with a willingness to work in laboratory and field settings.

Required:

- Strong interest in environmental issues and desire to learn
- Strong desire and ability to work outside, on a boat, under a variety of environmental conditions, as well as in a laboratory setting.
- Ability to follow directions and guidelines outlined in IEC's SOP's, Project Plans and other documents; attention to detail
- Strong organizational and time-management skills; ability to multi-task
- Strong communication skills
- Strong computer skills, particularly Excel
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team; quick learner
- Valid driver's license, private means of transportation, and willingness to transport ambient water samples and sampling equipment when necessary
- Experience driving in and around the tri-state area (NY, CT, and NJ)
- Ability to lift and carry up to 50 pounds

Desired:

- Prior field and laboratory experience
- Prior experience with multi-parameter sondes, specifically YSI EXO1, YSI ProDSS, HOBO, Star-Oddi and associated software
- Experience with MS Access, ArcGIS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This is a paid position; it is estimated that the position will require 30 hours (4 days per week), with some flexibility. The approximate start date is May 1, 2021 with an estimated end date of October 31st, 2021, with some flexibility to accommodate academic schedules at the beginning or end of the internship. This position does not include benefits. Duties will occur at multiple workplaces including the IEC's Laboratory located in Brooklyn, NY and boat surveys departing from Port Washington, NY and New York Harbor. Some work assignments may be performed remotely, as appropriate.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: Fieldwork begins in the early morning (5:00-6:30am, as some projects are sunrise-dependent) and occurs in all weather, including heat, sun, and rain, with little to no shelter. Some surveys require working as long as 6 hours on a sampling vessel without access to amenities.

Requirements

A valid driver's license and access to own transportation required. Travel for field work and sample transport will be reimbursed.