

Wildlife Observer/Sonar Technician, contracted
May 13-August 23, 2024, with possibility of extension if funding is available

JOB DESCRIPTION

Maine Department of Marine Resources/Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative seeks multiple full-time contracted wildlife observers/sonar technicians to collect marine mammal and seabird observation data and assist with seafloor sonar mapping during the 2024 survey season.

The wildlife observer/sonar technicians will be responsible for collecting observational data on marine mammals and seabirds encountered during daylight-hour sonar surveys in the Gulf of Maine, and will also contribute to continuous vessel operations on multi-day trips by assisting a hydrographer (the on-vessel team leader) in running a multibeam echosounder (MBES) sonar system. Wildlife observations are required for vessel observations in federal waters.

The wildlife observer/sonar technicians will be responsible for entering marine mammal and seabird sightings data into an electronic data collection platform. The observers/technicians will also assist the hydrographer in collecting seafloor sonar and backscatter data in our offshore priority mapping areas to allow for continuous vessel operations. Between survey trips, the wildlife observer/sonar technicians will perform QA/QC on seabird and marine mammal data; run R scripts to analyze the data; and may also assist with sample preparation and processing in the benthic ecology laboratory.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES

- seabird and/or marine mammal identification
- vessel-based experience, especially in offshore environments
- knowledge of physical oceanography, marine science, marine ecology, or similar competencies that relate to the tasks and descriptions above
- field data collection experience
- prior experience with sonar operations is a plus

LOCATION WHERE THE WORK WILL BE PERFORMED

Maine Department of Marine Resources (Boothbay Harbor), and on contracted vessels operating in offshore waters in the Gulf of Maine.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND DOCUMENTS

Rolling deadline; application review begins March 18, 2024. Please provide a cover letter and resume (no length restriction) outlining your experiences and how you meet the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed above.

COMPENSATION AND HOURS

- Pay rate: \$15/hour
- Estimated 40-hour average work week although this may be highly variable. Most vessel excursions will be 4-5 days at up to 12 hours/day, but with time off in between trips.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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