



COLLEGE of BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

Aquatic Research Technician Position

Position Overview:

We are seeking an **Aquatic Research Technician** to support a collaborative project between the University of Guelph and Harkness Laboratory of Fisheries Research (MNRF) that aims to evaluate prey fish movement and habitat use in lakes and creeks. The ideal candidate will have a background in aquatic ecology, fieldwork techniques, and data collection methodologies; however, experience with aquatic ecosystem research is not mandatory as we will train the selected individual for the tasks they will be involved in during the tenure of this position. The primary focus of the role will be the deployment of acoustic telemetry receivers, telemetry tagging of small prey fish species, setting nets and traps, electrofishing, fish processing, and data collection in Algonquin Park, Ontario.

This position is open to members of the 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities. We ask that you please identify which Algonquin community you are connected to in your application.

Key Responsibilities:

- *Acoustic Telemetry Receiver Deployment:* Deploy, maintain, and retrieve acoustic telemetry receivers within aquatic ecosystems to track the movement and behavior of target fish species. Ensure proper functioning of equipment and troubleshoot technical issues as needed.
- *Telemetry Tagging:* Implant telemetry tags into small prey fish species, ensuring minimal stress and harm to the animals. Monitor and track tagged individuals using appropriate telemetry equipment.
- *Field Sampling:* Prepare and set nets, traps, and other field equipment in Lake Opeongo and Costello Creek to capture and sample fish populations. Conduct electrofishing surveys in both stream and lake environments, adhering to established protocols.
- *Fish Identification and Measurements:* Collect, identify, measure, and weigh prey fish species captured through various field sampling techniques.
- *Fish Processing:* Perform fish dissections and tissue collection following established procedures. Prepare samples for further analysis.
- *Data organization:* Record field observations, measurements, and collected data accurately and consistently. Maintain organized and well-documented field notebooks and data sheets. Assist in data entry and management tasks.
- *Safety and Compliance:* Adhere to safety protocols and guidelines to ensure the well-being of the research team, wildlife, and the environment. Comply with all relevant regulations and permits.

Department of Integrative Biology

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Assets:

- Familiarity with aquatic ecosystems and species found in the Algonquin Park region.
- Proficiency in data collection, record-keeping, and data management.
- Good organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work effectively in remote and challenging field conditions.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills.
- First Aid and CPR certification is a plus.

Logistics:

The Aquatic Research Technician position will be based at [Harkness Laboratory of Fisheries Research](#) located on Lake Opeongo in Algonquin Park, Ontario. The research station serves as the hub for field operations and provides essential facilities and resources for conducting aquatic research in the region.

Work Schedule and Compensation:

- The position is a temporary role lasting for a period of three weeks, encompassing a total of 15 workdays (**work term: September 18th to October 6th, 2023**). **Please note, this time commitment is flexible.**
- The technician will work for 7 hours each day, with an unpaid 1-hour lunch break.
- The hourly wage for this position is **\$16.50 per hour**.
- The Technician's total compensation will be calculated based on the number of hours worked each day and the duration of the employment period.

Accommodation:

- Lodging accommodations, if required, will be provided and covered by the University of Guelph for the duration of the technician's employment period.
- All meals will be covered by the University of Guelph and provided at the Harkness research station if the technician requires lodging accommodations.

Transportation:

- The technician will be responsible for traveling to and from Harkness Lab each workday if they are not going to be staying at the research station for the duration of the work term. If they are going to stay at the research station for the duration of the work term, the technician will be responsible for their own travel to and from Harkness research station at the beginning and end of the work term.
- Once at the research station, transportation to various field sites will be provided via a work truck. The work truck will be used for travel between the research station and field sites within Algonquin Park each day.

If you are interested in participating in this work, please submit an application including a cover letter and resume to Charlotte Ward at cward@uoguelph.ca by September 4, 2023.