



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

April 17, 2023

Biological Scientific Aid, ZT-0404-2
NOAA Fisheries Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division

Duty Station: La Jolla, CA

The Opportunity: This term Biological Science Aid (ZT-0404-2) position within NOAA's Fisheries [Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division](#) (AERD) is a challenging but rewarding opportunity to participate in a 30+ year research program focused on interactions between the environment, Antarctic krill and fish, predators that depend on krill and fish for food, and commercial fisheries.

Eligible Candidates: We are seeking a positive, energetic, resilient, individual with strong organizational aptitude, excellent written and verbal communications skills, the ability to work as an adaptable member of a team, and a keen interest in gaining unique experience, knowledge, and insights to help advance professional and personal development.

This solicitation is for a time-limited appointment of a duration to last more than one year but not to exceed 4 years. While an appointment includes federal benefits, it does not provide the employee competitive/permanent status. The position will be filled through a Schedule A(r) appointment pursuant to 5 CFR 213.3102(r). This solicitation is for students who attend institutions who have earned degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including degrees in the natural resource management field. The selected individual will be offered a TERM opportunity to directly support scientific research with the NOAA Fisheries Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division and will be assigned to work at a remote Antarctic field site from mid- November through March each year.

A background investigation will be required for this position. Continued employment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

Additionally, due to the extreme environment, the limited first aid facilities available aboard the ship and at our field camp, and the limited medical expertise of individuals in the field team, participation in annual field work is contingent upon obtaining a medical clearance for deployment.

Salary and Benefits: As a federal employee you may be eligible for a range of benefits. Learn more about federal benefits [here](#). Salary range for a Biological Science Aid (ZT-0404-2) position: \$42,714 - \$76,182.



Application Process: To apply for this position, please submit a resume/CV and a statement of interest/cover letter highlighting what skills and experience you could bring to the position to Heidi Taylor at heidi.taylor@noaa.gov. Please send any questions you have to the email above.

AERD intends to select an eligible candidate during the summer of 2023; the incumbent would spend late summer through the fall preparing for deployment during the 2023/24 Field Season. **Deployment is Mid-November 2023 through Mid-March 2024.**

Duties and Responsibilities:

Annually, between approximately April and November, provide pre-season logistics and support for Antarctic field studies including, but not limited to:

- become a federal purchase card holder;
- coordinate with division staff to:
 - research, purchase, track, inventory and pack science equipment and supplies for field camps;
- plan, research, prepare and pack dangerous goods and hazardous materials shipments domestically and internationally;
- plan, schedule, inventory, pack and track international shipments of gear;
- operate, maintain and service Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in support of pinniped and seabird research programs: maintain NOAA AOC, FAA, and manufacturer-recommended training and certifications;
 - inventory, organize, ship and track UAS systems; and
 - perform mechanical and technical repairs and service as needed.
- required training includes wilderness advanced first aid or first responder, EEO/anti-harassment training, cybersecurity training, federal purchase card training, and several more; and
- support pinniped and seabird research programs by conducting, for example, photo and video annotations, laboratory analyses, data management, and other research tasks as directed.

Annually between approximately mid-November through mid-March, provide in-season support for logistics and Antarctic field studies including, but not limited to:

- Active member of an eight-person research team, with limited privacy;
- logistical operations during all port calls for the duration of the port call;
- logistical operations to transport equipment, supplies, and personnel between the transport research or logistics vessel and the field camp at Cape Shirreff in Antarctica;
- camp maintenance and improvement of infrastructure including construction projects; using basic carpentry, plumbing, and electrical skills;
- care and maintenance of research equipment;



- shared cooking, cleaning, and similar duties;
- employee must be able to lift up to 50 lbs. repeatedly and unassisted;
- employee will work in a variety of outdoor weather conditions in remote locations, will stand for long periods of time outdoors, and will walk long distances carrying equipment over difficult terrain;
- must be able to climb ladders and embark (disembark) small boats from the sides of larger ships; must be able to paddle canoes and may be required to ride on ships for extended periods of time (over 1 month) and fly on fixed wing aircraft and helicopters;
- employee must live in remote field camps (for periods of up to 3 months from approximately November to March) where conditions are primitive, there's limited privacy and communications home are limited;
- must maintain basic first aid knowledge;
- support pinniped, and seabird research programs including, conducting supervised research by assisting the Pinniped Principal Investigator and Seabird Principal Investigator, as directed, to:
 - collect and analyze standardized data related to pinniped and seabird reproduction, foraging ecology, growth, abundance, distribution, survival and diet;
 - assist with animal capture, handling, attachment and recovery of scientific equipment;
 - collection and processing of fecal and other tissue samples;
 - enter data promptly and properly into designated databases;
 - assist in keeping a catalog and inventory of all samples collected, and a continuous tally of all permitted captures, takes, and procedures; and
 - perform other duties as assigned.

