

Position Title: Bioacoustics Specialist (Full-time)

Location: Miami, FL (On-site)

About the Company

We are a growing environmental sciences consulting firm headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, with approximately 50–100 nationally distributed employees and a strong portfolio of clients, contracts, and projects. Our multidisciplinary team provides environmental, scientific, technical, geospatial, and program management consulting services to public and private sector clients nationally and internationally, particularly addressing coastal and marine resource topics.

Position Summary

Research Planning, Inc. (RPI) is seeking a Bioacoustics Specialist for a potential position supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). This position will develop and manage key research projects for a marine mammal passive acoustics program in the southeastern U.S., including collection and analysis of passive acoustic data to address distribution, ecosystem ecology, and anthropogenic impact questions to multiple species, with a specialized focus on ESA-listed whales. The candidate's work will also support management and conservation needs.

Responsibilities

- Provide general laboratory assistance including data archiving, computer maintenance, and construction and maintenance of acoustic hydrophone recorders (moored/drifted hydrophones, towed arrays) and associated oceanographic equipment.
- Participate in fieldwork as needed, including deployment/retrieval of drifting and moored hydrophones; deployment and real time monitoring of towed hydrophone arrays, sonobuoys, and/or gliders; visual observation of anthropogenic and biological activities; and assistance in oceanographic data collection.
- Analyze and interpret archived acoustic data to detect, localize, and classify biological and anthropogenic sound sources. Conduct advanced analysis to address the NOAA Fisheries Passive Acoustic Ecology Program research objectives, including leading/developing research ideas. The contractor will be responsible for uploading all metadata to NOAA's acoustic databases and servers, and for the maintenance of the deployment and detections databases.
- Presenting results at internal and external meetings, reports, and publications.

Qualifications

- Ph.D from an accredited college or university in acoustics, fisheries, oceanography, natural science, mathematics, or another major directly related to the field of work, plus 10 years of experience.
- Experience using acoustic metadata databases and scientific bioacoustics software programs, such as Pamguard or Raven to analyze cetacean sounds.
- Experience analyzing anthropogenic noise in the marine environment.
- Experience programming in MATLAB and/or R programming languages.
- Experience building, maintaining, & repairing real-time acoustic hydrophones (e.g., towed hydrophone arrays, sonobuoys) and autonomous hydrophones (drifting and/or moored).
- Experience with the implementation of legislative mandates, such as the Marine Mammal Protection and Endangered Species Act for highly endangered marine mammal species, e.g., Rice's whales or North Atlantic right whales.
- Experience in NOAA Fisheries cetacean bioacoustics research is preferred.

Equal Opportunity Employment

Research Planning, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, age, genetic information, or pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law. Our policy of equal employment opportunity applies to all aspects of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, discipline, terminations, wage and salary administration, benefits, and training. We are committed to fostering a fair and merit-based workplace where every employee feels valued and respected.

To Apply

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to careers@researchplanning.com, indicating "Environmental Scientist" and your name in the subject line. Leading applicants may be contacted for a phone, online, and/or in-person interview; professional references; degree transcripts/certifications; and writing or other work samples.

Do not phone, contact staff members, or appear in person to apply or seek information on this position. Please understand that due to the potential volume of interest, we may not be able to respond to all applicants.