

Position Title: Bioinformaticist (Full-time)

Location: Miami, FL, Beaufort, NC, or Pascagoula, MS (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 Bioinformaticist for a potential position supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). The candidate will conduct and support research to improve laboratory and data analysis techniques to help understand the distribution and abundance marine animals (including but not limited to marine mammals) and improve the effectiveness of fishery management and conservation of marine and anadromous organisms across multiple divisions. The candidate will also perform research developing, refining, and utilizing molecular techniques to investigate various marine and anadromous species, as well as participate in laboratory, field, and statistical projects and contribute substantively to research on molecular techniques for fisheries management, including eDNA.

Responsibilities

- Use statistics and computational approaches to assess data and results that influence the management of fisheries and conservation of a variety of marine and anadromous taxa. Continue the development of robust data management planning and execution to meet all requirements of the Public Access to Research Results (PARR) Act.
- Provide analysis of existing and future genomic datasets, and facilitation of project lead analysis, including the development and testing of tools, as needed, to include RADseq analysis, WGS to variant calling, population genomics, landscape genetic analysis, source-sink dynamics, CKMR, metabarcoding bioinformatics analysis in marine fish and mammal species, and analysis of eDNA data.
- Work closely with the program manager to identify research priorities for the group and conduct project management to ensure that data is delivered efficiently and accurately. Construct deadlines and ensure that these deadlines are being met or adjusted accordingly. Manage laboratory approaches, including assisting with purchasing and inventory, and training new employees.

- Establish and nurture effective partnerships with internal and external scientists and resource managers from other NOAA offices, Federal and State agencies, academic institutions, and international institutions.
- Collaborating with internal and external groups to aid in the sharing of information to meet common objectives, including participation in the NOAA Fisheries Omics network
- Prepare management reports, information products, and presentations for both general and technical audiences. Participate in publishing research in scientific journals as lead or co-author.
- Assisting with the development of reports, papers, presentations, or briefs on marine or fisheries-related information.

Qualifications

- MS Degree (or higher) in Marine Science, Biology, Oceanography, Ecology, Statistics, or a related field of study or BS Degree in Marine Science or a related field of study plus five (5) years of relevant experience
- Ability to go to sea (generally < 1 week)
- Experience overseeing lab operations (e.g., training, purchasing) and managing project timelines
- Ability to present and publish to peer-review audiences and journals
- Expertise in bioinformatics, including experience with Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) data analysis, including RNA-seq, exome-seq, whole-genome and targeted sequencing, and methylation analysis.
- Strong knowledge of R/Bioconductor, Python, and other programming languages used in data science and bioinformatics.
- Experience with data visualization tools/libraries such as ggplot, heatmaps, or dimension reduction techniques.
- Proficiency in scripting languages (Python, R) and knowledge of software engineering best practices
- Working knowledge of marine mammal or marine science research activities.

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.