

Position Title: Quantitative Ecologist (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 Quantitative Ecologist for a potential position supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). The candidate will work on marine mammal data management and analysis, including the application of statistical models and/or the development of simulations to address complex scientific problems. The candidate is responsible for project design, data collection and data management, including workflow documentation using accessible software tools.

Responsibilities

- Develop analytical approaches to address complex questions in marine mammal spatial and/or behavioral ecology related to NOAA priorities and legislative mandates, like the MMPA and ESA, as well as administrative priorities and policies, including assessments of the impact of stressors on marine mammal populations. This includes:
 - Evaluation of animal movement and habitat ecology
 - Development of spatially explicit statistical models representing animal abundance
 - Development and implementation of models of marine mammal population dynamics
 - Development of quantitative risk assessment approaches evaluating the effects of natural and man-made stressors on marine mammal populations
- Identify key data gaps and develop/propose approaches to improve or modify data collection efforts to address these gaps.
- Participate in field data collection efforts intermittently, including providing advice and assistance with data collection and data management protocols.
- Work with other team members to formulate analytical solutions to questions relating to marine mammal management that integrate existing data streams within NOAA.

- Develop written technical reports and peer-reviewed publications documenting the findings of projects and disseminate scientific results via presentations to diverse groups of stakeholders.

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
- Experience with statistical analysis to investigate species-environment relationships, management of large datasets, and visualizing model outputs, including species distribution maps and other products.
- Experience working with oceanographic and/or climatological data is preferred.
- 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 developing survey/sampling design, relationships, and queries to support analyses of biological data from marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles, plus ancillary environmental and oceanographic data collected for long-term research studies.
- Experience collecting marine biological data for research programs in support of government resource management recommendations.
- Experience providing technical advice to diverse groups of stakeholders and research collaborators on marine science and marine mammal research, and conservation.
- Proficient in R/Python, GIS, or similar statistical analysis software for marine biological applications.
- Ability to organize, process, disseminate, and archive complex biological and environmental datasets and applications using the latest data management tools, especially Cloud-based solutions.
- Demonstrated ability to present technical information to a non-technical audience, publish and present research findings at peer-reviewed forums, including conferences, workshops, and leadership briefings.

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.