Large River Fisheries Technician (2 positions)

Employer:  Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois

Location:  Position based out of Champaign, IL with travel throughout the state

Closing Date:  4/30/2016

Job Description:  Work hours will be split approximately equally between field and laboratory work. Field responsibilities consist of collecting monitoring data related to fish, habitat, and water quality in riverine systems. Laboratory work includes identifying fish, data entry, and assistance with current research. Work hours will vary each day, but the successful applicant(s) would work approximately 40 hours per week with occasional overnight travel. Per-diem and lodging for overnight travel will be provided.

The position will be stationed in Champaign Illinois, but travel will occur throughout the state. Work days could be long, but mostly involve traveling to sites. Successful applicant(s) will work in scenic rivers throughout the state of Illinois, learn how to identify >50 species of fish, gain experience entering data, and be able to assist with ongoing research projects. Lab work may include participation in numerous laboratory tasks including identification of fish, zooplankton and benthic invertebrates, aging otoliths and diet analysis of fishes. Work will be conducted in conjunction with faculty, graduate students, and other research assistants. Must be knowledgeable or willing to learn field and laboratory identification of Midwest fish species. Other duties may include maintenance and repair of sampling gears, boats, boat trailers, and laboratory equipment. This is a great opportunity to gain experience in fisheries research, which can provide an edge when applying for graduate programs or fisheries employment.

Qualifications:  BS in fisheries, aquatic ecology or closely related field. Good interpersonal and computer skills are essential. Experience using large boats, outboard motors, trailers, four wheel drive vehicles along with fisheries and related field equipment is preferred. Requires significant physical exertion (including carrying 60 or more pounds of gear for short distances), commitment to safety, and meticulous data recording. Familiarity with boat operation and marine safety protocols is desirable. Candidate must be willing to work in adverse weather conditions, possible nights or weekends with long days, and work from a boat on large water bodies. A valid driver’s license and ability to swim is required.

Salary:  $11.00 - $13.00/hour

Available:  May 15, 2016, through October 31, 2016 at 40 hours per week. Some overtime may be necessary during peak sampling season. Overtime hours are paid at a rate of time and a half and must be approved by the supervisor.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

Application:  For full consideration, applications should be received by 4/30/16, but position will remain open until filled. Electronic applications required. To apply, please send cover letter, resume’ or CV, copy of college transcripts or photocopy of degree, and names and contact information of three references to:  hroffice@inhs.uiuc.edu (Reference “Parker Tech” in subject line). Direct hiring questions
to Erica Hanson at elhanson@illinois.edu. Direct technical questions to Jerrod Parker at jlpkke2@illinois.edu.