

Research and Maintenance Diver

Reports to: Dive Safety Officer / Senior Biologist
Job Status: Non-Exempt, Full-Time, Temporary -
Two Years

Department: Husbandry
Approval Date: November 2017
Grade: Six

Job Summary:

Job duties for this position are split between support of research-science dives and maintenance -working dives. Research dives will fall under AAUS guidelines and may include, but not limited to lionfish removal, fish counts, freshwater mussel assessment and more. Experience captaining boats up to 32' with divers is required.

The diver will also assume a role of working diver under the regulations for commercial diving as outlined by OSHA 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T. Commercial-oriented diving tasks shall include, but not be limited to cleaning exhibits; the inspection, maintenance and repair of aquarium exhibits; using hand held power tools; acrylic buffing both on scuba and dry.

Further, this dive position shall be required to work with a diverse team of divers in the implementation of all dive safety procedures and guidelines ensuring safety at the facility and offshore.

Essential Functions:

- Assist with and execute dives for the Aquarium's Great Ocean Tank, including daily shows, exhibit maintenance, animal husbandry needs and special events
- Assist with the coordination, scheduling and execution of aquarium dives, including non-GOT exhibit maintenance, animal husbandry needs, off-site animal collection, research and other aquarium dive needs
- Assist with the supervision of a safe dive program for all aquarium related divers
- Captain and execute safe boating activities to support husbandry and conservation efforts
- Develop, schedule and execute the necessary dive training and certifications needed for aquarium related dives
- Conduct rescue and safety drills
- Comply with legal dive safety requirements by studying existing and new requirements, enforcing adherence to requirements and advising management on needed actions
- Supervise unpaid staff divers, including volunteers and interns
- Maintain professional and technical knowledge and required certifications
- Assist with the maintenance of a Dive Safety Manual
- Keep accurate records including dive training and gear repair
- Adhere to the South Carolina Aquarium Policies

Other Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide periodic interaction with aquarium visitors
- Work with and supervise outside contractors
- Prepare and conduct public presentations and aquarium tours
- Contribute to the Husbandry team by providing assistance as needed
- Support the mission by participating in aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Skilled in SCUBA equipment maintenance and repair, such as Guardian, PSI and regulator
- Able to pass AAUS Dive Physical
- Able to pass Swim Test
- Able to pass Dive Skills Test
- Able to understand the mechanical equipment necessary for safe diving and boating
- Experience with boat handling and navigation
- Not affected by motion sickness (sea sickness) and/or able to manage motion sickness in a way that is not deleterious to job function or end result
- Able to understand the mechanical equipment necessary to maintain living exhibits
- Knowledge and demonstrated skills for minor plumbing, carpentry and electrical work
- Able to understand and assist with the proper collection and handling of live specimens
- Proficient in all MS Office Products including: Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook
- Supports the mission by participating in Aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis

Education and Experience Required:

- Minimum 60 dives
- Experience leading and supervising dives
- BS in biology, aquatic biology, or closely related field preferred
- Experience leading and captaining boat trips
- Experience in care of aquatic animals preferred

Licenses and Certifications Required:

- Coast Guard Captain's License
- Professional certification (Dive Master or Instructor) from a WRSTC recognized organization or equivalent
- First Aid / CPR Certified
- Oxygen Administration Certified
- Valid driver's license

Supervision of others:

- Unpaid staff including volunteers and interns

Physical Requirements:

- Average walking, standing, bending/stooping/crouching, climbing ladders, carrying up to 50 lbs., sitting, kneeling, balancing, pushing and pulling, crawling

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of all job duties performed by the personnel classified.

The Aquarium is an "at-will" employer, and as such, employment with the Aquarium is not for a fixed term, or definite period and may be terminated at the will of either party, with or without cause, and without prior notice.