

# POSITION DESCRIPTION

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## *Shellfish Project Specialist*

### **Description of the Position**

This is a grant funded position being co-managed by the Center for the Inland Bays and Delaware Delicious Oysters, an aquaculture farm. They will conduct oyster aquaculture, oyster reef construction, shell collection operations, presentation to the Center's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, informal education programs, and serve as a representative of the Center to the Aquaculture industry.

#### *For the Center:*

For 2-3 days per week, the Project Specialist will support the Center's Shellfish Enhancement program, which takes waste oyster shells collected from area restaurants and turns them into artificial oyster reefs in the Inland Bays. Work will include regular maintenance on the Center's Scientific Oyster Lease, creation of artificial reef structures in our shell yard, occasional shell collection runs, support of existing reef maintenance and monitoring, and further developing and coordinating the continuing relationship between the Center and the Inland Bays aquaculture industry. The Project Specialist will report to the Center's Science Technician on these activities.

#### *For Delaware Delicious Oysters:*

For 2-3 days per week, the Project Specialist will support the operations of Delaware Delicious Oysters aquaculture farm. Time of day will depend on weather and the tides—work is done in the water during low tide. Work will include record keeping and organization necessary to track oysters in their different stages of growth, planting of 200,000(+) 6mm oyster throughout the summer, which includes tumbling, sorting by size, and re-submerging for their next phase of growth, maintenance of equipment to reduce bio foul, tracking of weather conditions and water salinity and how they affect oyster growth, and working with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control on monitoring, required reports, and inspections. Proper water shoes are required, waders are helpful during the spring until the water gets warmer. The Project Specialist will report to the owner/operator of Delaware Delicious Oysters on these activities.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinate and communicate a weekly schedule that incorporates at least two days with each Project Partner.
- Operate the Center truck, boat and other equipment in a safe, responsible manner.
- Operate the Delaware Delicious Oysters oyster tumbler (with instruction) in a safe, responsible manner.
- Hand grade oysters to pull market size for sale.
- Operate a power washer to clean equipment of bio foul and clean oysters for sale to local restaurants.
- Perform basic husbandry tasks on oyster aquaculture and research leases.
- Keep mileage and scientific records; submit receipts for fuel and other expenses in a timely manner.
- Train and supervise volunteers in the construction of 120 Oyster Shell logs, assist in the construction of an artificial oyster reef (this will be after October 1).
- Develop a presentation on oyster/shellfish to be delivered at the Center's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.
- Keep equipment reasonably clean; store equipment in an organized fashion; Maintain the Center's shell storage site and aquaculture lease in a reasonably clean manner.
- Develop and maintain cordial relationships with the aquaculture industry to address problems, promote the program, distribute promotional material, etc.
- Coordinate with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control on monitoring, required reports, and inspections of aquaculture lease.
- Follow all pertinent safety procedures as developed.

## Preferred Qualifications

- Current or recent enrollment at a two- or four-year DelMarVa area College or University with an interest in pursuing commercial aquaculture, conducting shellfish research, or a related field.
- Holds a driver's license (Delaware Class D or equivalent) and maintains a reasonably clean driving record.
- Ability to operate a 23-foot skiff.
- Physical ability to lift and dump oysters bags from 50 - 80 lbs.

- With or without assistance, physical ability to move trash barrels of up to 100 pounds from barrel location to truck lift gate with the assistance of proper dolly equipment and/or oyster cages up to 80 pounds with the assistance of mechanical lifts. Physical ability to dump the barrels on the pile at the collection site from the bed of the truck.
- Maintain a flexible dress code reasonable for field work and office work.

## **Position Type**

This is a paid, part-time, seasonal position paying \$20 per hour. The position is not subject to Center's paid leave, holiday, and sick pay. Participation in benefit plans is not offered. It is anticipated that this position will be filled by a student.

## **To Apply**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and two references as a single PDF document to [hiring@inlandbays.org](mailto:hiring@inlandbays.org).