Restoration Technicians Needed

Northern California Kelp Forest Restoration Project

Reef Check California

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Reef Check Foundation seeks two full-time Restoration Assistants to assist with a kelp restoration project in Northern California. Reef Check Foundation is a non-profit organization that trains volunteer citizen scientist divers to survey the health of coral and rocky reef ecosystems worldwide. In Northern California, Reef Check has focused on expanding our knowledge of California's most remote stretch of coastline, as these efforts were propagated by rapid changes to the ecosystem, including the formation of marine heatwaves, and the widespread phase shift from urchin barren to kelp forest. Reef Check will be implementing urchin control as a management tool for kelp restoration. This project will be conducted in close collaboration with The Ocean Protection Council, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the commercial fishing fleet of Fort Bragg, CA.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION

Restoration Assistants will lead dive operations and be responsible for conducting ecological monitoring operations (including data entry, video editing and quality control). Divers will be responsible for coordinating interns and certified volunteer Reef Check divers in monitoring efforts and assist with the organization of commercial fishermen operations. Dive Leads will work directly with the Restoration Program Manager as well as the Executive Director and other Reef Check staff to achieve project goals. This position involves extensive field work and diving in cold (44-57 degrees F) and challenging environments. Workdays not in the field are spent conducting data entry, quality assurance, video editing and coordinating with Commercial divers.

This is a full-time position (40 hours/week), Medical/Dental plan available. Compensation will depend on qualifications and experience. The ideal start date for this position is April 15, 2020, but extensions can be made for students who are enrolled in the spring semester/quarter and are in the process of completing their degree.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Organize field operations and relevant activities as directed by Program Manager
- Assist with citizen scientist diver, and intern training to ensure community involvement
- Data management (data entry, QA/QC, database)
- Outreach activities including public and scientific presentations, media, and community events

Preferred Applicant Qualifications:

- Bachelor's (B.S.) degree in Marine Biology, Ecology or related science with excellent oral and written communication skills is preferred.
- Experience diving California waters- a professional dive certification (Divemaster or above) is welcomed
- AAUS certification- trained in Reef Check, PISCO, and/or kelp forest monitoring program survey protocols.
- Knowledge and proper identification of California marine algae, invertebrates and fishes
- General understanding of kelp forest ecosystems and relevant literature pertaining to phase shifts from kelp forest to urchin barren
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Powerpoint, Word)
- Strong work ethic coupled with a high level of self-motivation and enthusiasm. We are looking for an outstanding leader that is able to inspire all divers involved in this effort. Experience managing and leading volunteers is a plus.
- Applicants will need to have their own dive gear in good working order, a computer with reliable internet access, a driver's license and dependable transportation.
- This position is located in Fort Bragg, CA, and we are looking for a candidate that can commit for at least a year, preferably longer, to this position.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply, send the following to Tristin McHugh (tmchugh@reefcheck.org) by March 29, 2020:

- **Email subject line:**
  - Lastname, Firstname_2020 Research Assistant (ex: Ricketts, Edward_Research Assistant)
- **In one (word or pdf) document:**
  - Cover letter detailing experience, interest in the position, and working with Reef Check
  - Resume with three references