

# Position Outreach Notice

## *Lower Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office*

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<https://www.fws.gov/office/lower-mississippi-river-fish-and-wildlife-conservation>

### Join Our Team

The Lower Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (LMRFWCO) is excited to announce the recruitment of two biological intern positions (fisheries), in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). These are unique opportunities to contribute to fish and wildlife conservation and gain hands-on experience in a dynamic environment.

### Description

These are term positions, lasting up to 9 months, starting ideally in February or March 2024. Weekly pay is \$568, plus a monthly lodging stipend. These positions are eligible for the SCA AmeriCorps Education Award Program, applicable towards federal student loans and undergraduate or graduate tuition and educational expenses. Awards are valid for up to seven years. For more information visit <https://www.thesca.org/sca-ameri-corps-program-overview/>.

These positions will be a vital contributing member of the LMRFWCO team, participating in field investigations related to species and habitat assessments. Examples include:

- Management and control of invasive carps in the greater Mississippi River Basin conducting:
  - Early detection / rapid response protocols
  - Evaluation of removal and deterrent effectiveness
  - Conducting population estimates and testing gear effectiveness
- Monitoring and evaluation of native aquatic species in large rivers and small streams:
  - Surveys of species of conservation concern
  - Habitat assessments (e.g., barrier / connectivity assessments) to identify habitat restoration opportunities
  - Monitoring and assessment related to hatchery propagation and production programs

Successful candidates will work in a variety of different aquatic habitats as part of a team to employ different fisheries sampling techniques and laboratory procedures in contributing to mission critical objectives. Key duties of these positions will include:

- Field sampling and data processing
- Data entry quality assurance checks
- Fisheries specific tasks (e.g., microscopy, age estimation, etc.)
- Preparation and maintenance of equipment and gear such as disinfection following field activities and gear repair (net mending, etc.)
- Detailed reporting, effective communication, and office maintenance including digitization and archival of administrative records, making administrative copies, detailing and fueling of vehicles and vessels, general office cleaning and upkeep, reporting and communication with office staff and external partners

These positions will require substantial travel (approximately ~50%) to sampling locations and will require field staff to stay overnight in hotels for lodging (Monday through Friday). Lodging and meal per diem will be provided by USFWS. Most days in the field are scheduled for 8h (typically 6:30a – 2:30p) but can extend up to 10 – 15h depending on circumstances (equipment failures, logistics, high captures of fish, etc.). The successful applicant for these positions will be required to work in harsh weather environments (extreme heat, high humidity, cold), while being exposed to biting and stinging insects, large and venomous reptiles, dirt and mud, fish slime, fish blood, and fish feces.

### Requirements

High school diploma or General Educational Development required; Associate's or Bachelor's degree preferred. Previous experience may substitute for higher education requirements; preferred experience is 1+ year assisting or conducting aquatic species and habitat sampling,

data entry and quality assurance, and working in strenuous conditions. These positions require the applicant to be able to lift and carry more than 50 lbs. and work in aquatic environments that are often unlevel and unsteady.

## How to Apply

For additional information please contact the LMRFWCO at [lmrfwco@fws.gov](mailto:lmrfwco@fws.gov).

## About Us

The LMRFWCO is part of a nationwide network of field stations striving to conserve fish and aquatic resources for the American people. Biologists from the Arctic to the Florida Keys work to protect native species, restore imperiled species and their habitats, monitor and control invasive species, evaluate native fish stocks and their habitats, and make management recommendations to improve natural resources.

We are collocated with Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, MS within FWS Region 4 (Southeast Region). With a current staff of four, our office provides planning, management, and scientific support to State, Federal, and Tribal partners throughout the Southeast Region.

## About the area

Tupelo is located in northeast Mississippi, in the Mississippi Hills, at the intersection of the Appalachians and the Mississippi Delta. There are numerous literary and musical icons that heralded from this part of the state - William Faulkner, John Grisham, Tennessee Williams, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Tammy Wynette, Howlin' Wolf – and their cultural influences remain strong. Downtown Tupelo has numerous arts and cultural opportunities including theater, museums, symphony, and concerts, and has an extremely active Main Street Association. An active lifestyle is within easy reach in northeast MS with its plethora of options from biking the Tanglefoot Trail, hiking in the Appalachian foothills, paddling and fishing biologically rich rivers and streams, to hunting public lands. Tupelo and the surrounding communities in northeast Mississippi are a few short hours from larger metropolitan areas such as Memphis (1.5 hours), Birmingham (2 hours), Nashville (3.5 hours), Huntsville (2.5 hours), and Chattanooga (4 hours).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

*The United States government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service or other non-merit factor.*

*Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.*

