
Indiana DNR District 1 Fisheries Biologist Job Opening

Purpose of Position/Summary

The incumbent serves as the District 1 Fisheries Biologist in the Division of Fish and Wildlife within the Department of Natural Resources responsible for a 14 county area across northwest Indiana. The office is located in North Judson at Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area. The incumbent applies professional biological knowledge and techniques, in planning, conducting and evaluating Division programs designed to manage fisheries resources in public lakes, rivers and impoundments within a specified geographical area in the state. The incumbent should be customer service orientated as the position requires frequent work with citizens of Indiana, city and county park departments, and other Department of Natural Resources entities. Where appropriate, the incumbent applies scientific principles and procedures to enhance public fish resources and the environmental conditions that support those resources.

Work includes conducting fish and aquatic vegetation surveys, writing and implementing work plans, preparing project budgets, administering equipment inventory, managing purchasing, and participating public information and education activities. Other duties include supervision, training, evaluation and discipline of subordinate personnel, and communicating with the public and other government entities. District biologists report directly to the Fish Research Biologist.

Essential Duties

The incumbent provides management recommendations and/or services to the public, other DNR divisions, the Natural Resources Commission, and other federal, state and local agencies to enhance fish resources on public and/or privately owned land and water.

Various representative duties include:

- planning and conducting scientific investigations to gather data on fish population status, trends, resource utilization, and environmental conditions for management needs.
- compiling and evaluates specialize scientific data collected from field investigations.
- inspects and provides comments and written recommendations involving authorizations or denials of various permits pertaining to public resource management.
- preparing written reports of investigational findings and recommendations regarding management alternatives.
- implementing division-approved fisheries programs and projects in conformance with strategic plan objectives.
- assisting other biologists on large-scale management and research projects.
- providing technical information in a manner conducive to understanding by other agency personnel, the general public, school groups, media, sportsmen and conservation groups.
- supervises a full-time assistant fisheries biologist in most cases, as well as seasonal employees.
- attends training sessions, seminars and meetings relative to resource management and stays abreast of resource management issues and new scientific knowledge to maintain a current level of expertise and to meet all legal requirements necessary to apply management programs.
- performs other duties as assigned by the supervisor.
- develops recommendations for regulatory and law changes to protect and improve the management of fisheries resources.

Job Requirements

The incumbent has specialized knowledge of biological principles, ecological variables and interactions, water and land management, and life histories and population dynamics of fish species developed through on the job training and relevant experience, typically after receiving a baccalaureate education.

- baccalaureate degree in fisheries management, biology, or a related field.
- comprehensive knowledge of scientific principles, theories, and practices of fisheries management, and the ability to apply them in the management and study of fish populations.
- must be able to effectively communicate with the public.
- must be able to work in a team setting.
- working knowledge of college level statistics and mathematics.
- working knowledge of state and federal laws pertaining to fish and wildlife.
- working knowledge of computers and relevant software.
- ability to operate and maintain a variety of work, shop, and office equipment.
- ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- ability to operate and maintain sampling and research devices, such as, electrofishing boats and barges, net boats, and boat trailers.
- ability to improvise and adapt methods and equipment for specialized tasks.
- ability to properly use aquatic herbicides and fish toxicants.
- ability to effectively coordinate and supervise the work of others.
- position will require a Category 5 Pesticide Applicator Certification
- incumbent required to hold a valid driver's license.

Difficulty of Work

The incumbent is normally engaged in managing biologically complex and variable situations. Consideration must be given to ecological, sociological, political and economic impacts in the selection of each management approach. Available methods, techniques and theoretical guidelines must be supplemented by the creativity, initiative and independent judgement of the incumbent in planning and conducting work. The difficulty of work often includes but is not limited to complex data tabulation requiring a high level of quality-control assurance, repetitive analysis and compilation of data from field investigations and samples, scheduling adjustments as necessary among subordinates to meet timely manpower needs, while also maintaining appropriate administrative records involving time management, budgeting and accounting. Some field sampling will be conducted at night.

Responsibility

The incumbent is responsible for planning, conducting, and evaluating division programs on public waters and receives only general instruction. Work is usually performed independently and reviewed by the supervisor on conclusion for final results. The methodology employed may be subject to spot-check. Procedures are normally written by the incumbent and approved by the supervisor.

Each incumbent is the primary and immediate on-call field level contact for all segments of the public and other agency personnel regarding fish resource management in specific districts within the state that include water resources spanning several thousand of acres of publicly-owned water.

Physical effort and Working Conditions

The incumbent is often required to exert effort in heavy lifting of sampling equipment, boat operation, and equipment maintenance. The incumbent spends a significant amount of field time throughout all seasons exposed to all weather extremes, day or night.

Application information:

Website to apply: <https://workforindiana.in.gov/>

Requisition Number to search on website: 437273

Closing date: March 4, 2024

For questions about the job contact: Tom Bacula, Tbacula@dnr.IN.gov, 574-896-3673