



JOB POSTING

Research Scientist

Posted: Open to internal and external applicants
Reports to: Curator of Conservation Research
Status: Full-time, salaried, benefitted position
Hours of work: Standard Monday–Friday work week, with flexibility for fieldwork, evening and weekend events, and travel as required.
Date needed: **November 2022**
Posting expires: Posted until filled

Position description:

The Seattle Aquarium, a leading marine conservation organization, is looking for a Research Scientist for the Clean Seas Program to join the Conservation Programs and Partnerships team. The Research Scientist develops and conducts industry-leading marine debris and pollution research. The position is responsible for coordinating research and monitoring projects involving staff, volunteers, graduate students, and external partners. In addition to leading research and monitoring projects, this position manages the aquarium's plastic pollution research laboratory in the Animal Care Center. This position coordinates with the curator of conservation research on fundraising via public and private grants and securing in-kind donations to supplement the existing research program budget. The Research Scientist primary responsibility is building and maintaining the marine debris and pollution research program.

Key functions:

This position is responsible for leading the Seattle Aquarium's marine debris and pollution research projects, including but not limited to:

- Develop and implement high-impact marine debris and pollution research projects to advance the aquarium's mission and conservation priorities, guided by the aquarium's values.
- Develop and maintain rigorous field sampling and sample processing SOPs (with QA/QC protocols), taking care to incorporate the Aquarium's unique location, research team, and organizational structure.
- Validate visual microparticle identification with polymer analysis such as Raman spectroscopy and uFTIR at partner laboratories.

- Convene the Northwest marine debris research and monitoring community to build community, facilitate networking, and enable exchange of scientific data and ideas. Facilitate development of standard methods and best practices.
- Pursue funding to support ongoing marine debris and pollution research projects. This includes leading and coordinating the preparation of proposals and budgets and coordinating with internal and external partners.
- Publish scientific findings in peer-reviewed journals and present results at scientific meetings, aquarium events, and other forums.
- Coordinate staff and supervise volunteers involved in marine debris and pollution research and monitoring projects.
- Serve on graduate student committees and mentor students to support academic development and advance conservation research.
- Participate in public speaking and engagement opportunities as they arise. Coordinate with the Marketing and Communications and Public Relations teams to develop clear, compelling communication materials and connect with media.

Required skills and experience:

We will consider various combinations of relevant experience and education to meet minimum requirements.

- A master's in marine biology, chemistry, or related field required.
- Minimum of 3 years of research experience in marine debris and pollution, including a demonstrated publication record.
- Demonstrated expertise leading the development of research projects, including field sampling, sample processing, and data analysis. Experience with relevant univariate and multivariate statistical methods, particularly with ecological field monitoring data.
- Strong analytical, written, and oral science communication skills, including translating results for technical and public audiences.
- Familiarity with Microsoft 365 (Outlook, Word, Excel, Access, OneDrive), virtual meeting platforms (e.g., Teams, Zoom) and internet browsers.
- Training in first aid, CPR, and dive-specific emergency response a plus.
- Must have or be able to obtain a Washington State Driver's License.

Working conditions:

- Requires handling, working with or exposure to animal feces and toxic chemicals.
- Requires the ability to work in the field in a variety of environmental conditions.
- Must be able to be on their feet 4 or more hours a day, be physically active through physical motions.
- Travel as needed to e.g., conduct fieldwork and participate in national and international conferences. Current research projects require regular travel within Washington (less than 25%).

Salary and benefits: \$66,600 to \$70,000 annually, *Dependent on experience*. Please include salary expectations in your materials. Full-time staff are eligible for the Seattle Aquarium's comprehensive benefits package to include medical, vision, dental, an employer-funded health reimbursement account, medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts, life insurance, long-term disability, 403b retirement fund with employer match, access to a subsidized ORCA pass, a Seattle Aquarium Family Plus membership and generous paid time off.

How to apply: The Seattle Aquarium is a progressive, equal-opportunity employer that values a diverse workforce. One of our core values is fostering an inclusive community, and we want our staff to reflect our community. To that end, we encourage diverse candidates to apply, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous and People of Color applicants and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Interested candidates should upload a résumé to our online application to be considered. Application review will begin immediately.

SeattleAquarium.org/careers

Please let us know if you require a reasonable accommodation to apply for this job by contacting the People and Culture Team

Note: Must pass a background check and motor vehicle records check, upon job offer, to be eligible for this position. Regarding driving records: Within the last three years, you must not have had more than two moving traffic violations or any major violation (DUI, reckless driving, negligent driving, etc.).

About the Seattle Aquarium:

The Seattle Aquarium is a respected authority on Puget Sound, the Salish Sea and the world's one ocean. Our passionate staff increases awareness and drives the change needed to preserve and protect our marine environment by providing an inspiring visitor experience, engaging daytime and evening events, conservation education programs for people of all ages and backgrounds, community outreach to marginalized populations, research that advances understanding of animals in our care and their counterparts in the wild, advocacy and policy work, an award-winning volunteer program, high-impact marketing and communications, and more.

Our values, developed in conjunction with our staff, include commitments to adopting and promoting sustainable practices, creating awe-inspiring experiences, constantly learning and improving, fostering an inclusive community, maintaining scientific credibility through evidence-based practices and honoring our unique place by using our location and history as a lens for larger understanding.

Proudly accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, we're among the top 10 aquariums in the U.S. by attendance, and we welcome over 850,000 people each year. Guided by our mission of *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*, we're working to substantially increase our conservation impact by expanding our campus with a new building, the Ocean Pavilion. Learn more at SeattleAquarium.org.

Regarding COVID-19:

Open daily, the Aquarium prioritizes the health and safety of our staff and visitors, embracing science to guide our operations. We maintain high standards of cleanliness, and all high-touch surfaces (like windows, railings, restrooms, and elevators) are continuously cleaned.

Please note: All Aquarium staff and volunteers must provide proof of vaccination or approved medical or religious exemption by the date of hire. If you have questions about this policy or for information regarding the exemption process, please contact the People and Culture Team.

Timeline:

We anticipate the following recruiting schedule for those candidates who are selected for consideration. The following dates are preliminary and subject to change. We will work with candidates to set interview dates. If hired, relocation assistance is not available.

- Priority given to applications received within the first two weeks of posting.
- Start date: November 2022