



## Scientific Interpreter and Aquarist

**Location:** Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

**Position Status:** Temporary, 14 weeks [May 28, 2019 – September 1, 2019]

**Hours:** 30 hours per week

**Wage:** \$12.50/hour

**Who can apply:** Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with provincial legislation and regulations. This position is funded through a summer student program and requires applicants to be registered for a post-secondary program in the fall of 2019. Please indicate in your application if you will be a returning student.

The Back to the Sea Society is a non-profit dedicated to sparking curiosity for local marine life and inspiring a desire to protect our ocean. We run the Touch Tank Hut, a miniature marine interpretive centre that features two large touch tanks filled with intertidal species. We are opening for our third season on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Touch Tank Hut fits into Back to the Sea's larger vision of opening a permanent collect-hold-and-release aquarium in Dartmouth. We are looking for an enthusiastic, curious and knowledgeable person to join our Touch Tank Hut staff and help advance our mission.

### Summary of Position

The Scientific Interpreter and Aquarist will be responsible for delivering interpretive programs and animal demonstrations to the visitors of the Touch Tank Hut while inspiring these guests to protect our ocean. This may include workshop programs to daycares and day camps and other organized groups. You will be responsible for maintaining the exhibits and providing quality care for all specimens. The successful candidate needs to have knowledge of local intertidal and subtidal species. Minimum one year in post-secondary education in sciences (biology, environmental, marine biology, oceanography), aquaculture, fisheries and oceans management, veterinary or related education is required. Previous experience leading programs for children, a valid driver's license, access to a vehicle and spoken French is an asset. Candidate must be comfortable handling live marine invertebrates, including shellfish.

### Duties and Responsibilities

#### Interpretation and Visitor Experience

- Schedule and plan group visits to the Touch Tank Hut for daycares and daycamps
- Participate in the evaluation of group programs
- Organize special one-off themed days for the Touch Tank Hut (e.g. Canada Day activities), sometimes in partnership with other environmental organizations
- Deliver scientific interpretive programs for a wide range of audiences at the Touch Tank Hut, including the general public, youth groups and persons with disabilities

- Welcome visitors, provide necessary information and maintain a high level of guest satisfaction through energetic interactions
- Track visitation
- Perform educational squid dissection demos
- Communicate animal handling protocols to guests
- Maintain appearance of building, information panels, hand-washing station, props and materials
- Perform duties associated with opening and closing the Touch Tank Hut on a daily basis
- Oversee gift shop sales
- Some administrative tasks (answering phone, balancing donation and retail cash, etc.)

#### Animal Care and Aquaristing

- Ensure high quality animal care (i.e. husbandry of local intertidal species)
- Maintain exhibits with live specimens (includes cleaning the tanks, monitoring water quality, ensuring adequate sediments, etc.)
- Work with other staff members to update and maintain animal care protocols
- Ensure volunteers know their roles and responsibilities with regards to animal care
- Help with inventory of animal food and feeding of animals
- Maintain aquaristing equipment, including filters, siphons, and water monitoring equipment
- Manage risks and ensure participant safety
- Participate in bi-weekly water changes, ensuring the Life Support System of the aquarium is in healthy working order

#### Other Responsibilities

- Assist in the recruitment and supervision of volunteers while providing a rewarding learning experience for them
- Participate in the training of the volunteers
- Represent the Back to the Sea Society at occasional external events and act as a proud and professional ambassador
- Help maintain social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) with engaging posts to promote events and other activities

#### Requirements/Qualifications

- Must be a Canadian citizen or legally entitled to work in Canada
- Must be a full-time student and intending to return to school in fall 2019
- Minimum one year of education in sciences (biology, environmental science, marine biology, oceanography), aquaculture, fisheries and oceans management, veterinary or similar preferred
- Have an aptitude for safe work practices and the ability to multi-task in a busy work environment
- Be able to work productively as part of a team while responding to feedback
- At least one season of interpreter/informal educator experience
- Knowledge of local intertidal and subtidal marine life
- Knowledge of marine animal care and water quality management an asset
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Creative, assertive, flexible and proactive in problem solving
- A valid driver's license and access to a vehicle an asset

- Spoken French an asset
- Standard First Aid training an asset
- Will be required to complete a Vulnerability Sector Check

### **Working Conditions**

This position requires standing for extended periods. Candidate must be comfortable handling live marine animals (including shellfish) and performing dissections on squid specimens. This position also involves having your hands in cold salt water on a daily basis. Must be available to work weekends, holidays and some evenings.

### **Physical Requirements**

This position requires lifting moderate to heavy equipment, including heavy water buckets.

**To apply, submit your cover letter, resume and two references in the form of a single pdf document to Magali Grégoire at [info@backtothesea.ca](mailto:info@backtothesea.ca).**

Qualified applicants are welcome to send inquiries about the role to [info@backtothesea.ca](mailto:info@backtothesea.ca) or call 902-817-2007.

**The deadline to apply is midnight, Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

We appreciate all interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

*Back to the Sea is committed to Employment Equity. We encourage applicants from Indigenous People, Visible Minority Groups, Persons with Disabilities, people of the LGBTQ community and Women to occupy positions where they are underrepresented. It is the responsibility of every team member of Back to the Sea to embrace a culture that promotes diversity.*