

Job Posting

Data Analyst (8-week, full-time contract, 2 positions)

Anticipated start dates:

- 1st position – July 5th, 2021
- 2nd position – September 7th, 2021

The Marine Education and Research Society (MERS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting conservation and understanding of marine ecosystems through scientific research, environmental education, and marine wildlife response. We are based in Port McNeill, on northeastern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. For more information about MERS' research, education and wildlife response efforts, see www.mersociety.org/background.

The Data Analysts will be essential in MERS' efforts to study and protect marine mammals in British Columbia. **Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, the positions may be conducted from the employees' homes or from our office in Port McNeill.**

The tasks and responsibilities of the Data Analysts include:

- Processing the large volume of Humpback Whale data collected year-round. This includes identifying individual whales from photographic data, data entry, database management and communicating with data contributors.
- Assisting the MERS Team with maintaining the MERS Humpback Whale catalogue through determining when whales are previously unidentified, when photos need updating, and when photos help inform our feeding strategy and entanglement studies.
- Conducting comparative analyses of BC Humpback Whale catalogues to determine the identification of individual whales and assign pigmentation and fluke features.
- Assisting in supervising volunteers during data entry and photographic data analysis in order to maintain the quality of the MERS databases.
- Assisting with the collection and processing of citizen science sightings data for Ocean Sunfish / Mola.
- If COVID-19 restrictions allow:
 - Educating the high volume of boaters and further visitors to the MERS office about the marine wildlife of the area and the threats to their populations, and how these threats can be reduced.
 - Processing retail and donation transactions that help support MERS' efforts.
 - Assisting with fieldwork as needed.
- Other office-based and education work as needed.

Hiring priorities:

The Marine Education and Research Society is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Priority will be given to those candidates who have the necessary qualifications and self-identify as belonging to underrepresented groups e.g. women in STEM, Indigenous youth, and those who are recent immigrants or refugees.

Successful candidates:

- Are 30 years or younger (funding requirement).
- Are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (funding requirement).
- Have graduated from or are undertaking post-secondary education in scientific fields; especially biology, environmental science, or resource management.
- Have demonstrable knowledge of the biology and ecology of marine mammals in British Columbia.
- Have strong computer skills including having experience with data entry.
- Have proven skill at identifying individual Humpback Whales. A matching test will be part of the selection procedure for these positions.
- Have proven dedication to reducing impacts to the environment.
- Work well independently and with minimal supervision and have exceptional organizational skills.
- Must be willing to reside in Port McNeill for the duration of the work term, if MERS COVID-19 protocols allow the opening of our office to the public.

Additional assets:

- Have proven, successful experience with public outreach and science communication.
- Have successfully completed a MERS [Marine Mammal Naturalist Course](#).
- Experience with some or all of the following programs: Photo Mechanic, Filemaker, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign, and ArcGIS.

Salary: \$17.50/hour

Work term: 8-week contract at 35 hours/week with anticipated start dates of (1) July 5, 2021 and (2) September 7, 2021.

Application deadline: May 16th, 2021 at 11:45 PM PDT

Application:

Complete the application form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/mersapplication and include:

- a. A resume with 3 references (name, position and **email address**) with a minimum of 2 references being employment contacts, and
- b. A cover letter.

Selection procedure:

1. **Written Interview:** Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by **Friday, May 21, 2021** to complete a written interview. Applicants who are not shortlisted for a written interview will not be contacted.
2. **Online Interview via Zoom:** A further selection will be made based on the results of the written interview and those shortlisted applicants will be contacted by **Friday, June 4, 2021** for an online interview.
3. **Matching Exercise:** Applicants will be further shortlisted as a result of the online interview and contacted to complete an assessment of their ability to identify individual Humpback Whales (matching them to catalogue images).