

Job Posting

Marine Educator (8-week, full-time contract)

Anticipating starting date: July 5th, 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 Marine Educator will be essential in MERS' efforts to study and protect marine mammals in British Columbia. **Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, the position may be conducted from the employee's home or from our office in Port McNeill.**

The tasks and responsibilities of the Marine Educator include:

- Assisting with online boater education to increase awareness of how to reduce threats to whales, comply with laws and best practices, and avoid risk of boater injury through collision and entanglement.
- Assisting with "See A Blow? Go Slow!" signage on the coast of British Columbia.
- Assisting with development of educational materials for both in-person and online outreach.
- Assisting with the launch of our "Ocean of Good" campaign re. reducing marine debris.
- Liaising with residents of northern Vancouver Island and the local marine ecotourism community to provide resources and information allowing for the amplification of education / conservation efforts.
- Processing retail and donation transactions that help support MERS' efforts.
- Assisting with the comparative analyses of BC Humpback Whale catalogues to determine the identification of individual whales and assigning pigmentation and fluke features.
- If COVID-19 restrictions allow:
 - Conducting outreach at community events.
 - Educating the high volume of boaters and further visitors to the MERS office about the marine wildlife of the area and reducing the threats to their populations.
- Other office-based work and research support 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 proven, successful experience with public outreach and science communication.
- Have strong computer skills.
- 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 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.
- Video production and/or graphic design skills.
- Experience with resource development and/or marketing.
- Proven skill at identifying individual Humpback Whales. A matching test will be part of the selection procedure for these positions.

Salary: \$17.50/hour

Work term: 8-week contract at 35 hours/week with anticipated start date of July 5, 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).