

The Nature Conservancy

JOB DESCRIPTION

Marine conservation planner / GIS Analyst

JOB TITLE:	Marine Conservation Planner / GIS Analyst
FLSA STATUS:	Exempt
LOCATION:	Anchorage, Alaska

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The Marine Conservation Planner / GIS Analyst will support The Nature Conservancy's marine conservation programs, focusing initially on the coastal, estuarine, and continental shelf habitats of the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering Seas. S/He will be instrumental in developing science-based conservation plans for these regions through data collection, development, analysis, and mapping and through conservation approaches including regional planning, policy, direct habitat restoration, protected-area designation, and market-based strategies.

S/He will work collaboratively with the Bering Sea and Arctic Program directors to develop multi-faceted regional and community-based collaborative initiatives with partners. S/He will be part of a team that works on the design of marine protected areas; approaches and tools for ecosystem-based management; gap analyses; ecoregional assessments; and conservation area plans. S/He will serve as a primary point of contact for marine planning and will be expected to enhance strategic partnerships both within and outside the Conservancy to improve the development and implementation of plans. S/He will report the advancement of marine science in planning, tools, and training.

S/He will engage relevant local communities, government agencies and other private non-profit organizations by building connections and collaborative undertakings. S/He will organize and oversee a variety of program activities; recognize and develop new opportunities to advance program goals; communicate regularly and effectively with a wide variety of people with different backgrounds and perspectives; develop and manage spatial and non-spatial data and databases; and be the primary marine species and habitat analyst. S/He will contribute to the Conservancy's global and regional marine conservation goals by coordinating with marine staff across the organization.

DUTIES:

1. Develop and implement analytical methods for applying marine science data to the conservation work of The Nature Conservancy and partner institutions. Examples may include methods to identify off-shore habitat protection priorities, integrate conservation priorities in ecologically linked freshwater and marine ecosystems, determine appropriate boundaries for marine protected areas, and delineate and prioritize threats to marine species and ecosystems.
2. Develop and implement methods to assess marine diversity and marine planning efforts through spatial data analysis. Design and maintain marine GIS and other relational database programs, including developing and maintaining all documentation for data and data management. Develop methods for mapping and classifying marine ecosystems. Process spatial and other relational data sets derived from cartographic and tabular source material. Design and produce advanced complex queries and professional reports, maps, and other graphic products.
3. Develop and maintain working relationships with peers in academic institutions, government agencies, and other conservation organizations to advance the Conservancy's mission and marine conservation goals.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- MS degree in a field relevant to marine science and marine resource conservation and 3-5 years related experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Experience with Geographic Information Systems technology and software such as ArcGIS, but also including graphics, and database software packages such as Microsoft Access.
- Demonstrated conservation planning experience, including the design and implementation of conservation planning projects involving GIS data development and management, map production, and spatial analysis. Experience with tools for conservation planning such as Marxan is desired.
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative when working independently or as part of a group. Ability to work effectively in a lead or support position within a team. Excellent creative problem-solving skills, ability to learn new skills and procedures quickly and to train others in their use. Comfort with uncertainty.
- Advanced analytical skills including manipulating, analyzing, and interpreting data for marine ecosystems
- Knowledge of marine species and ecosystems and their conservation needs
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English.
- Ability and willingness to travel frequently and occasionally on evenings and weekends.

COMPLEXITY/PROBLEM SOLVING:

- Experiment and cultivate the creative ideas of others to identify solutions to complex and less-defined problems.
- Interprets guidelines, evaluates information and modifies processes to adapt to changing circumstances
- Resolves complex issues, evaluates alternatives, and implements solutions within program area independently
- Sets goals and objectives for project completion dates for numerous ongoing projects. Manages projects on a large geographic scale.
- Designs, implements and directs complex and diverse projects, encompassing multiple programs and coordinating the work of other professionals inside and outside the organization. Incorporates cross-disciplinary knowledge to support program objectives.
- Compiles and organizes scientific data with attention to detail

DISCRETION/LATITUDE/DECISION-MAKING:

- Makes sound, independent decisions in conservation science and planning based on analysis, experience and judgment
- Manages and prioritizes tasks from multiple sources with minimal supervision
- Significant opportunity to act independently within broad program goals.

RESPONSIBILITY/OVERSIGHT – FINANCIAL AND SUPERVISORY:

- May help develop and manage work plans and large project budgets
- May manage a grant or contract or write a request for proposal
- May negotiate and contract with vendors
- Contribute to grant applications

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERPERSONAL CONTACTS:

- Ability to work cooperatively with staff and external parties, sometimes under pressure, in order to complete project work and goals in a timely manner
- Collaborates with a wide range of conservation partners to identify research needs, present technical concepts at national or international conferences, and support fieldwork
- Ability to effectively communicate complex scientific data to general audiences
- Acts as a technical liaison to individuals within and outside TNC with responsibility to act independently regarding technical matters pertaining to his/her field
- Ability to establish excellent working relationships with outside partners, state/local/federal agencies, land managers, private landowners and the academic community.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL EFFORT:

- Work requires only minor physical exertion and/or physical strain.
- Work environment involves only infrequent exposure to disagreeable elements.

Submit resume and cover letter to Steve MacLean at alaska@tnc.org. Please include job title in subject line of email.

The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.