



## Job Posting - Summer Positions (8 and 12 weeks)

### Data Analysts/ Marine Educators

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 information about MERS' research, education and wildlife response efforts, see [www.mersociety.org/background](http://www.mersociety.org/background).

The Data Analysts / Marine Educators will be essential in MERS' efforts to study and protect marine mammals in British Columbia. These are primarily office-based positions with some outreach activities being conducted around NE Vancouver Island. There may also be some opportunity to accompany MERS researchers on boat-based surveys.

#### **The tasks and responsibilities of the Data Analysts / Marine Educators include:**

- Processing the large volume of Humpback Whale data collected during our field season. This includes identifying individual whales from photographic data, and data entry.
- Assisting with maintenance of the MERS Humpback Whale catalogue through determining which whales are previously unidentified, which photos need updating, and which photos help inform our feeding strategy and entanglement studies.
- Conducting comparative analyses of BC Humpback Whale catalogues to determine the identification of individual whales.
- 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.
- Conducting targeted boater education at docks, boat ramps and outreach events to increase awareness of threats to whales, how to mitigate these threats, and how to reduce the risk of boater injury through collision and entanglement.
- Further aiding in MERS' work to serve as a resource to the local community (with a focus on local ecotourism and boat operators) in order to enhance the value of wildlife viewing experiences and boater safety.
- Processing retail and donation transactions that help support MERS' efforts.
- 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 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, resource management or related field.
- Have demonstrable knowledge of the biology and ecology of marine mammals in British Columbia.
- Have strong computer skills, including proficiency with Microsoft Excel and Word.
- Have proven skill at identifying individual Humpback Whales. A matching test will be part of the selection procedure for this position.
- Have experience with data entry.
- Have successfully completed a MERS [Marine Mammal Naturalist Course](#) (can be taken after the start date but is an additional asset if this has already been achieved).
- Have proven successful experience with public outreach and science communication.
- Have proven dedication to reducing impacts to the environment.
- Work well independently and with minimal supervision and have exceptional organizational skills.
- Must reside in, or relocate to, Port McNeill for the duration of the work term.

**Additional assets:**

- Experience with some or all of the following: Photo Mechanic, Filemaker, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign, and QGIS.
- Video production skills

**Salary:** \$16/hour

**Work term:** 8 weeks or 12 weeks (dependent on funding source).

Positions are for 35 hours/week beginning potentially June 1<sup>st</sup> or July 1<sup>st</sup> (dependent on government protocols regarding travel and social distancing).

**Application deadline:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Application format:**

Applications must include:

1. A resume including 3 references (name, position and **email address**) with a minimum of 2 references being employment contacts.
2. A cover letter addressing strengths in relation to the position requirements. It is important to also include the following information as this will help us match applicants with potential funding sources for these positions (e.g. Canada Summer Jobs):
  - Period of availability;
  - If you are under, or over, the age of 30 (due to funding requirements; specific age not needed); and
  - If you are currently enrolled in post-secondary education and, if yes, what program and year you are enrolled in.



Applications are to be emailed to MERS Operations Director: [nicole@mersociety.org](mailto:nicole@mersociety.org).

**Selection procedure:**

1. References of short-listed candidates contacted.
2. Short-listed candidates interviewed via SKYPE.
3. **Final interviews held in person in Vancouver, Victoria or Port McNeill. Candidates will be asked to complete an exercise to assess their ability to match whale IDs.**

**Please note that only short-listed applicants will be contacted and that this would happen before May 7<sup>th</sup>.**