Vacancy Announcement

Quantitative Scientist for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) invites applications for the position of Quantitative Scientist. This is a fulltime fixed term (2 years) appointment to work at the headquarters of this international organization, located in La Jolla, California, U.S.A.

The IATTC is the regional fisheries management organization responsible for the implementation of the 2003 Antigua Convention, the objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The IATTC employs a scientific staff that operates under the supervision of the Director of the Commission and of its Coordinator of Scientific Research. The functions of the scientific staff are defined in article XIII of the Convention and include, among others, conducting scientific research, providing information and scientific advice and collecting statistical data. More information about the IATTC can be found at www.iattc.org.

The selected applicant will work as part of the IATTC Stock Assessment Program under the supervision of the Head of the Program.

Duties of the selected applicant may include, among others:

• Evaluating the reliability of data obtained on fish aggregating device (FAD) identifiers to track individual FADs through time.

• Investigating methods to determine purse-seine set type from data collected from various sources.

• Evaluating the relationship between catch and number of FAD deployments.

• Investigating measures of fishing capacity that take into consideration days fished, purse-seine set type, and vessel efficiency.

• Investigating the relationship between fishing mortality and fleet capacity.

• Evaluating alternative management measures such as closed areas, individual vessel limits, and gear restrictions.

• Working with IATTC database managers to create data extractions, post-process data, and conduct statistical analyses.

• Writing technical reports and publications.

• Presenting analyses at IATTC meetings and, as appropriate, other meetings (international and national)
Selection Criteria

Experience in a relevant quantitative field, with either a PhD dissertation or Master’s Thesis focusing on fisheries data analysis or a closely related subject or extensive data analysis experience. A PhD is preferred, but a Masters or relevant work experience will also be considered.

Candidates should also possess the following skills:

- Strong proficiency with standard statistical modeling techniques such as generalized linear mixed-effects models, generalized additive models, and mixture models (e.g., zero-inflated models).
- Knowledge of fisheries and fisheries data.
- Strong proficiency with the R programming language.
- Willingness to work in an office setting, primarily with computer databases, computer programs, and statistical software.
- Strong inter-personal skills and experience working as a part of a team, as well as working independently.
- Working knowledge of English. Fluency in Spanish, written and oral, is desirable and will be considered as an asset.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.

Other desired skills

- Familiarity with ACCESS and SQL.
- Experience with purse-seine fisheries, including fisheries data and fishery operations.
- Experience with conducting fisheries stock assessments.
- Willingness to travel when necessary.
- Willingness to learn new skills and to self-teach new methods.
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Salary and Allowances

The salary is US$80,000 per year.

Benefits include annual leave with pay, sick leave with pay, medical, dental, long-term disability and life insurance and a defined contribution retirement plan.

Availability

The candidate chosen for the post should be available to report at IATTC headquarters on January 1, 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications
Applications may be submitted in either English or Spanish and should be sent no later than October 31, 2017 in electronic format to tmusano@iattc.org, or to the following address:

Teresa Musano  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive,  
La Jolla CA 92037-1509  
USA

Applications should include the following:

- A cover letter containing a statement of purpose of the application and succinct descriptions of the applicant’s experiences and abilities.
- Curriculum Vitae – preferably the applicant should fill, electronically or in hardcopy, the IATTC personal history form that can be accessed at http://www.iattc.org/StaffVacancies/IATTCPersonalHistoryForm.pdf
- Official copy of transcripts and college degree.
- List of training courses, special skills, certificates and licenses, honors, or awards that relate to the specific description of this announcement. Please do not include copies of certificates.
- List of publications
- Letters of reference from persons with a recent knowledge of the applicant’s character, qualifications and experience.
- A health certificate or statement issued by a competent medical doctor indicating that the candidate is physically able to perform the functions of the position as described in this announcement, or is otherwise in good health.
- A statement as to whether or not the applicant’s current supervisor may be contacted.

**Additional Information**

Please consult the IATTC website at www.iattc.org for complete information on IATTC duties and the application process.