



PORT TOWNSEND
MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Position Description

The hiring of this position is contingent on receiving already approved funding from the WDFW.

Position Title: Marine Mammal Stranding Network Program Specialist
Classification: Seasonal, temporary, part-time, Non-exempt (hourly)
Reports to: Citizen Science Coordinator

Position Start Date: ASAP, confirmed when approved funding is received

Position End Date: September 30, 2024

Note: Length of appointment may extend depending on funding availability.

Organizational Summary: The Port Townsend Marine Science Center is a non-profit marine conservation, science and education organization located in Fort Worden State Park and downtown Port Townsend, Washington. Our two Fort Worden State Park facilities house a small, vibrant aquarium featuring over 150 species from the nearshore habitats of the Salish Sea, a museum with a fully-articulated orca skeleton and natural history collections, and classrooms. The downtown facility is currently home to a visitor center, store, and exhibit Gallery. Our exhibits explore how human impacts such as climate change stress the fragile ecosystems in the Salish Sea, and what people can do, through their collective actions, to affect positive change. Visit www.ptmsc.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram to learn more.

POSITION PURPOSE: The Port Townsend Marine Science Center holds a letter of authorization from NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region, to serve as the Marine Mammal Stranding Network (MMSN) coordinators for East Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. In the summer of 2023, we experienced a significant increase in response calls for stranded harbor seals along the shores adjacent to Rat Island and Fort Flagler State Park on Marrowstone Island. With concerns related to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 infected Caspian Terns, we plan to increase monitoring of these areas this year and do more outreach to the public about HPAI and what to do if you find a stranded marine mammal (call the MMSN).

The Marine Mammal Stranding Network Program Specialist will focus on marine mammal stranding network response and educational outreach to the public. The position is based out of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center.

Essential Functions of the Position

- Monitor the PTMSC marine mammal stranding network hotline
- Dispatch volunteers when necessary

- Respond to strandings and collect Level A data and photos
- Collect animals for transport to Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR) when candidate for rehabilitation.
- Collect carcasses and transport to CVAR for HPAI testing.
- Survey shorelines as needed.
- Assist with training new PTMSC staff, docents and exhibit volunteers on what to do if they are contacted about a stranded marine mammal.
- Provide educational outreach to the public about MMSN and HPAI (we will follow WDFW, WA Dept of Health and NOAA talking points on HPAI and how the public and MMSN responders can stay safe) using the following delivery methods"
 - Direct communication with and distribution of MMSN information to area ports, marinas, homeowner associations and others who work and live adjacent to public shoreline access points.
 - Weekly public information booths or pop-up talks at Fort Flagler, adjacent to Rat Island, or downtown Port Townsend on the public wharf next to the gray whale exhibit.
 - Offer a talk to PTMSC volunteers about MMSN and HPAI
- Ensure that all information in the PTMSC system is up to date and easily accessible to new staff and volunteers.
- Assist with other duties as needed related to MMSN and HPAI.

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE

- Previous education in Marine Biology, Aquarium Science or a related field.
- Experience with animal care in a public, research, or wildlife facility.
- Experience following protocols and procedures.
- Experience communicating clearly in a variety of settings.
- Experience working and interacting with all levels and different styles of personalities while maintaining a professional attitude.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Reliable transportation is required for this position. Mileage reimbursement is available for travel to and from animal response sites and for the transport of animals to and from CVAR from sites.

Working Conditions and Technical/Physical Requirements

- Must have the computer skills to input data, read computer screens and printed material, communicate effectively in-person, via phone, and email.
- Weekend and holiday work will be required for this position.
- This role requires standing, walking, stooping or crouching, kneeling, reaching, pushing, grasping, lifting, feeling, hearing and talking. You must be able to lift objects over 40 lbs.
- Physical presence at PTMSC will be required for this position.

- Work in a marine environment, including during inclement weather (occasional cold, wet, salty) is required.
- This work requires working with dead marine animals.
- Valid WA State Driver License
- Access to a vehicle

Compensation: This is an hourly position, at a rate of \$18.00- \$20.00 per hour based on qualifications and professional experience. This position will average approximately 25-30 hours/week. Benefits include Paid Sick Leave at the rate of 1 hour sick leave for every 10 hours worked.

At PTMSC we value collaboration generated by a positive, friendly environment. A good sense of humor is a must! In addition to departmental responsibilities, team members have opportunities to participate in special projects, represent the science center at events, and advance their professional development.

HOW TO APPLY:

This position is open until filled. **Only electronic submissions will be accepted.** Please email a copy of your resume and cover letter to jobs@ptmsc.org, with the subject "MMSN Specialist Position." Please address your cover letter to Betsy Carlson, Citizen Science Coordinator.

PTMSC will provide equal opportunity to all applicants regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, military status, marital status, order of protection status, genetic information, sexual orientation, transgender status, or any other category protected by law, in accordance with all applicable law.