

Dockport Ltd.

Research Technician

Introduction

DockPort Ltd is a Canadian clean technology company and inventor of the BOBR oyster cage. BOBR is a mechanized system that dramatically improves product quality, increases productivity, and reduces labour on oyster farms. Our patented design radically reduces required effort and optimizes shell shape. BOBR delivers better oysters, faster with less effort.

DockPort Ltd is undertaking a research study to compare growth rates and shell shape of oysters grown in BOBR units vs technology presently in use. This project intends to build on preliminary data that BOBR growth units significantly decrease the growth time from oyster seed to market size as well as improve farm productivity by producing oysters of higher value due to a more optimal shell shape. If these findings hold true, the significance to Atlantic Canada will be great, with the adoption of BOBR technology potentially leading to dramatic increases in both output volume and product quality.

The project partners are DockPort Ltd. and four additional oyster aquaculture farms interested in testing the BOBR technology, together with scientific oversight provided by academic researchers at St. Francis Xavier University (StFX). We are seeking a research technician under the direction of DockPort and Dr. Russell Wyeth at StFX to conduct a scientific study of oyster growth rates and shell shape. The technician's primary role will be to support the successful analysis of existing data sets, implement the 2023 research plan, complete analysis of the 2023 data, and to help to prepare oral and written communications about the data and the study's conclusions.

Terms of Employment

5-6 month placement, 40 hours a week, \$20/hour

Work Conditions

Field work: fast-paced environment, physically demanding, working outdoors most of the day. Analysis work: a meticulous research environment, with high expectations for scientific rigour and objectivity

Work Location:

636 Big Island, Merigomish at our principle farm, with some time spent at the Wyeth lab at St FX

Job Brief:

We are looking for an enthusiastic, responsible, and hard-working individual to fill the position of Research Technician. The position will entail full time hours, blending farm visits, lab and office work for data compilation and analysis, and on-farm work to learn the operations of the new technology. Field work will travel to 4 other aquaculture sites across the Maritimes, with travel expenses reimbursed (including overnight stays, when needed). Office-based work will focus on data management and analysis, synthesis and writing a report on the research findings. Finally, throughout, a key aspect to project success is that the incumbent will learn the operation of these new technologies through on-farm work, both to provide important context for the research project and the final report, and also to facilitate communication with our study partners and the wider oyster aquaculture community.

Duties and responsibilities

- help with scientific project planning and administration
- co-supervision of another student researcher
- data collection
- data analysis
- materials and equipment management
- help with report and manuscript writing
- help the project lead with overall organization of research activities
- A willingness to adjust weekly work hours based on the tides and activities being carried out on the farm.

Preferred Background and Qualifications

- Graduate in the fields of marine biology, environmental engineering, environmental resource management or other such field.
- research experience
- ability to work independently
- meticulous organization
- strong time management
- the ability to be outdoors in a wet environment, for most of the day
- research aptitude.
- software: MS Excel, SPSS, R
- statistical analysis
- scientific presentation and writing
- drivers license

* Farm is located in a rural area, personal transportation to and from farm will be needed. (You will need a car.)

Application Procedure

Send a resume/CV, unofficial transcript, and a statement of interest to rwyeth@stfx.ca