Summer Fisheries Tech Wanted for Chinook Salmon Research in Interior Alaska

Period: May 1 to September 16, 2019 (some flexibility possible for academic calendars)
Salary: $17.30/hour + limited benefits (full time)
Location: Chena River and tributaries near Fairbanks, Alaska
Application deadline: Friday, March 22

South Fork Research, in collaboration with UAF and ADFG1, seeks a full-time summer technician to lead a 2-person team deploying one-of-a-kind technologies to study prey abundance and feeding conditions for juvenile Chinook Salmon. Technologies include a suction pump system to capture tiny drifting invertebrates and a computer vision system to measure debris that distracts feeding fish, in addition to standard data loggers and fish measurements.

After the first month of training, this technician will lead fieldwork with short-term partners from UAF and ADFG, in close coordination with a Seattle-based project leader. There will be ~50x 8-hour and 3x 28-hour field days from May-August, mostly using the equipment above. Days not in the field will involve sorting invertebrates in a laboratory at UAF or handling project logistics (e.g., digitizing data and shipping samples). This is the first of two field seasons, and good performance may lead to an offer for the summer of 2020.

Requirements:
• Responsible, mindful of details, communicative.
• Available to respond on short notice for weather-dependent sampling, including some weekends (but won’t average more than 40 hours/week).
• Able to help lift heavy objects (~70 lbs) short distances (i.e. out of a river, or into a truck).
• Proficient with limited one-night camping in a semi-wilderness setting.
• Positive attitude in inclement weather.
• Valid driver’s license.

Helpful qualifications to highlight if you have them:
• Any fisheries or ecology fieldwork experience.
• Experience capturing and handling small fish.
• Experience working on or leading small teams.
• Mechanical skills (small motors, etc).
• Skill with electronics or photography, especially high-end mirrorless or digital SLR cameras.
• Shallow-river jetboat driving experience.
• Experience towing and launching boats.
• Potential availability for both summers.
• First-aid training.

To apply, please email Dr. Jason Neuswanger (jason@southforkresearch.org) with a resumé, cover letter (<1 page) describing how you meet the qualifications, and two references with email, phone, and title / relationship to you.

1 University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Project funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (PCSRF). South Fork Research is an equal opportunity employer.