Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Biological/Physical Oceanography

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the field of Biological/Physical Oceanography to work on a research collaboration with a team of fisheries scientists and oceanographers at USM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Southeastern Fisheries Science Center (NOAA SEFSC), and NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (NOAA AOML).

The successful candidate will devise and conduct analyses to elucidate large-scale drivers of fisheries productivity and range shifts (and their combined influences) for a suite of coastal finfish species in the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. South Atlantic Bight. The proposed analyses involve meshing oceanographic data with fisheries data sources at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Oceanographic data will include in-situ observations, satellite-derived ocean data, and outputs from an ocean-biogeochemical model and a high-resolution ocean reanalysis product. Fisheries data will include landings data for target species, as well as fishery-dependent data and fishery-independent data from various state and federal surveys. The research associate will process, merge and analyze these varied data sets to develop and test hypotheses related to large-scale climate variability and changes in productivity or fish distributions of coastal pelagic species.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in physical or biological oceanography, marine ecology, marine biology, systems ecology, statistics, or a related field. The successful candidate should have experience with statistical (or modeling) analyses of either biological or physical oceanographic data, and willingness to expand his/her expertise to interdisciplinary studies. Experience with statistical programming languages (Perl, Python, R, MATLAB, etc.) and strong scientific writing skills are needed. A strong publication record, the ability to work independently with large amounts of data, and familiarity with interdisciplinary ecosystem analyses are required.

The appointment is for two years and is renewable for up to one additional year, contingent upon performance and availability of funds. Salary is competitive, and benefits are included. Eligibility for this position is conditional on a USM background check. The position will be based out of USM’s Division of Coastal Sciences located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, however the research associate will physically reside and work at the NOAA SEFSC in Miami, Florida. The research associate will be responsible for working with minimal supervisory oversight provided by the lead investigators at the NOAA SEFSC and AOML, and will derive technical guidance regarding his/her work through interactions with project lead investigators (and other colleagues) at USM, SEFSC and AOML. Concepts will be developed, clarified and refined primarily through peer discussion within and outside USM, SEFSC and AOML.

Applications for this position must be submitted through the USM Human Resources website (Job Requisition ID 1073). Complete applications must include: 1) a cover letter detailing qualifications; 2) a current curriculum vitae, and; 3) names and contact information for three references. For direct inquiries about the position, please contact frank.hernandez@usm.edu (and cc: mandy.karnauskas@noaa.gov and sang-ki.lee@noaa.gov). Review of applicants will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled. However, applications received by September 30, 2019 will receive the fullest attention.