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Position Announcement

Physical Oceanographer

Issued June 18, 2008

Background The Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC), in Cordova, Alaska (www.pwssc.org), seeks an energetic observational physical oceanographer to conduct basic and applied research in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. The research focus of the PWSSC is on understanding the physical and biological mechanisms and linkages affecting diversity and productivity in Prince William Sound and how they vary in space and time. The research area includes the Sound, the Copper River Delta and the adjacent Gulf of Alaska. This position will provide a broad range of experience with a developing ocean observing system in a geographic area with unlimited research opportunities.

Prince William Sound is located in the northeast corner of the Gulf of Alaska and includes an intricate network of maritime glaciers, rain forests, offshore islands, and open ocean. PWS has 4,900 km of shoreline, is surrounded by the Chugach Mountains, and contains the most extensive system of tidewater glaciers in North America. Most of the land area is in or adjacent to the Chugach National Forest. The city of Cordova is the hub of fisheries activities in PWS and is regularly served by the Alaska Marine Highway System (ferry) and two airlines providing several daily flights to and from Anchorage and Seattle.

Duties: This position is substantially funded by a grant from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute (www.pws-osri.org) to conduct routine oceanographic transects, maintain fixed moorings and meteorological arrays, and telemetry networks as part of the PWS Ocean Observing System (<http://ak.aos.org/pws/>). This position will be responsible for participating in research and monitoring programs, including the acquisition and analysis of hydrographic, acoustic doppler current profiler, and drifter data; and publication in peer reviewed journals. The position is expected to assume a lead role in securing external funds to develop oceanographic studies to further our understanding of how Prince William Sound, the Gulf of Alaska, and the surrounding watersheds interact. The position will also be required to participate in an integrated science, education, and outreach program conducted by the staff of the PWSSC.

Requirements: A Ph.D. in oceanography OR documented experience relevant to the duties for conducting oceanographic research projects is required. The candidate must be self-motivated, and capable of working both independently and within an interdisciplinary team. Experience in programming (IDL and/or MatLab), quantitative analyses of oceanographic and meteorological time series data, and visualization of complex multivariate data is essential. The candidate must be able to participate on a minimum of four seasonal oceanographic cruises of up to one-week duration per year. The candidate must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in coastal and nearshore circulation dynamics, oceanographic instrumentation (CTDs, ADCPs, wave gauges, CODAR, meteorological arrays), ocean observing systems (including real time data relay networks), and a working knowledge of numerical circulation modeling. **All candidates must either be U.S. Citizens or Canadian or Mexican nationals eligible for a TN visa.**

Duration: This is intended as a long-term position. Funding for the position is secured for two years and the candidate will be required to secure additional funding for future years.

Salary: \$50,000 to \$68,000 depending on experience, plus an excellent benefit package. Salary negotiable for candidates able to secure external funding.

Application deadline: Position is open until filled; review of applicants begins July 1, 2008.

Starting date: September 1, 2008.

To Apply: Send a one-page cover letter with research interests, and the names and contact information of three references, along with a curriculum vita by email to: Nancy Bird, PWSSC President (nbird@pwssc.org or 907-424-5800 ext. 225). Inquiries about this position may also be directed to Scott Pegau, the OSRI Research Program Manager (wspegau@pwssc.org 907-424-5800 ext. 222).

For further information about Cordova, visit www.cityofcordova.net

For further information about the research program, visit <http://www.aos.org/meetings/meetings.htm> (January 20 | PWS Field Demonstration Planning Workshop – presentations by Schoch, Campbell, Ewald and Okkonen)