



DEPARTMENT OF
**GAME & INLAND
FISHERIES**
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Division: Bureau of Wildlife Resources

Position: VFAWC (VA Fisheries & Aquatics Wildlife Center) Intern

Work Location: Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery (Charles City County)

Time Period: Spring; Summer; Fall

DGIF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is to manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all who enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating, and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries operates a cooperative freshwater mussel hatchery (VA Fisheries & Aquatic Wildlife Center, VFAWC) at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery. The VFAWC has no dedicated staff and is operated part time by the DGIF malacologist, his P-14 and a full-time biologist contracted thru Conservation Management Institute; and two USFWS biologists. In order to complete the needed tasks, VFAWC has relied on volunteers and interns since starting the facility in 2007. Since the facility has increased its capacity over the past year, assistance from volunteers and interns likely will be more critical to achieve our potential increased production and desired goals. Potential duties of an intern would consist of the following:

- 1) Daily monitoring and maintenance of mussel propagation systems (host fish checks and feeding, water chemistry monitoring, water changes, etc.)
- 2) Daily cleaning and maintenance of mussel rearing systems (clean chambers, feed mussels, check mussels, water chemistry monitoring, water changes, etc.)
- 3) Maintenance of host fish used for propagation (feeding, etc.)
- 4) Daily sampling of propagated freshwater mussels (counting and measuring juvenile mussels)
- 5) Tagging and measuring mussels for release
- 6) Assist with field collection of host fish
- 7) Assist with field collection of freshwater mussels
- 8) Assist with release of propagated freshwater mussels

Work schedule (days and times) will be determined by the supervisor and student. The facility operates 7 days per week, which gives the intern the opportunity to work anytime during the week or weekends. Weekend work hours are not a requirement. Slow periods are November through January. Depending upon availability, the intern may be able to help with shad production at the hatchery. This typically runs from mid March into early June.

Prefers majors in Fisheries or Wildlife Management, Environmental Science, Biology or a related major.