Full Time Research Staff Opportunity

**TITLE:** Research Associate – Fish Taxonomist

**CLASSIFICATION:** Full-time, benefits eligible position

**AGENCY:** Environmental Institute of Houston

**WEBSITE:** [www.eih.uhcl.edu](http://www.eih.uhcl.edu)

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**
The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) is conducting the 2023-2024 National Rivers and Streams Assessment in Texas. This project is in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and its contractors. The goal of this assessment is to evaluate the condition of flowing waters by collecting field data related to physical habitat, fish assemblages, macrobenthic invertebrate communities, and water quality. We are currently recruiting full-time, benefits eligible Freshwater Fish Taxonomists with the position(s) anticipated to end in late December 2024. All work will be based out of Houston; thus, the incumbent will be required to have local lodging accommodations, but extensive travel is required to conduct field work across Texas.

This is an excellent opportunity for an aspiring fisheries taxonomist interested in freshwater fish assemblage field data collection. The Fish Taxonomist(s) will be responsible for identification of all fish collected (to species level whenever possible), coordination with USEPA and their contracted data recipients, and data compilation (including quality control) related to fish assemblages documented at each site. Additionally, the Fish Taxonomist(s) will be responsible for operation and maintenance of various field and laboratory equipment, driving university vehicles, vessels, and trailers. The Fish Taxonomist will work with an interdisciplinary team of scientists, technicians, and graduate students to conduct field work in sometimes remote locations during summer months with additional local field- and office-based responsibilities during the remainder of the year. Applicants must be able to conduct physically demanding work during high-heat and humidity and be able to lift and carry up to 50 lbs. of equipment.

**LOCATION:** Based in Houston, TX; includes state-wide travel throughout Texas

**SALARY:** $45,000/year (commensurate with experience; full-time, benefits eligible, grant funded and continuation is contingent upon future funding); travel expenses during field work covered by grant funds (relocation expenses not provided)

**QUALIFICATIONS:**
Applicants should possess or be pursuing a Bachelor’s degree or higher in fisheries ecology, biology, environmental science or a closely related field. **Applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency in freshwater fish identification skills through experience and course-work.** Applicants must be willing to travel; but are required to have lodging in the Houston area for office-based activities between sampling trips. Additionally, a successful candidate will:

**Required**
- Travel up to 14 days at a time and work long hours (10+) in the field during summer months.
- Be in good physical condition, able to lift 50 lbs., traverse steep/rough terrain, and be comfortable working from a boat, canoe, or kayak.
- Possess a positive attitude, and willing to work independently and as a member of a team
- Have previous experience with common fish sampling techniques (e.g., electrofishing, seining, and preservation) and/or collection of environmental data associated with freshwater aquatic ecology.
- Be proficient in Texas freshwater fish identification, or have ability to learn quickly.
- Maintain, calibrate, and operate field/laboratory environmental/biological data collection equipment, including vehicles, vessels, and trailers.
Preferred
- Oversight in scientific data collection, entry, quality control, basic data analyses, and report compilation
- Experience conducting riverine (wadeable and/or boatable) biological monitoring assessments.
- Experience with additional aquatic organism collection and preservation.
- Experience leading small teams of research staff and students in collection of environmental and biological data collection.

Additional Notes: Applicants must possess a valid driver’s license, be physically able to drive university vehicles, and must pass a criminal background and motor vehicle background check prior to hiring.

PRIMARY CONTACT: Mandi Gordon, gordon@uhcl.edu *e-mail preferred

ANTICIPATED START DATE: January 1st or 16th, 2024 (dependent on completion of hiring paperwork)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until filled

HOW TO APPLY: Interested candidates must access the UHCL TALEO application portal through the following link: https://uhs.taleo.net/careersection/ex4_uhcl/jobdetail.ftl?job=STA013631&tz=GMT-06%3A00&tzname=America%2FCentral (link will redirect to the UHCL TALEO system job posting entitled “Research Associate”). Candidates should plan to submit a cover letter, current resume, and contact info for three references.