



Temporary Survey Assistant

eDNA Sampling Programme – Moray Firth Tracking Programme

Battleby, Perthshire, Scotland

The Atlantic Salmon Trust is a leading salmon and sea trout conservation charity that seeks to improve the freshwater and marine populations of Atlantic salmon and sea trout from catchments flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. It is based in the UK but has a reach and reputation that extends around the fisheries world.

The Trust is looking to appoint a Temporary Survey Assistant, for a four-month period from 21st February to 18th June 2022, to support Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling of avian and mammalian predators on the Ness System, with the possibility of some sampling on other northern Scottish river systems.

The role will involve scat sampling of birds and mammals feeding in the catchment. The person appointed to the post may also be required to sample fish predators. The Survey Assistant will act as a liaison with field staff on the ground, and will also liaise with those who have local knowledge of predator behaviour.

The Survey Assistant will report to the Trust's Tracking Co-ordinator.

General Duties

The Survey Assistant will provide the focal point for all avian, mammalian and predatory fish eDNA sampling over the course of their contract, with technical and scientific support from the Tracking Co-ordinator.

Specifically, the postholder will be responsible for the collection of eDNA samples and recording of predator behaviour on the river catchments. There may also be a requirement to assist the fish telemetry programmes operated by the Atlantic Salmon Trust.

Conditions of Employment

The terms of employment will be detailed in a contract and accompanying staff handbook, along with this job description. The Trust operates a flexible 37.5 hour working week, which will on occasion require working evenings and weekends. The main place of work will be the Ness catchment. It should be noted that the postholder will be required to travel: as such they will need to have access to a vehicle as work locations may not be accessible by public transport. On occasions the Survey Assistant may also be required to work from the Trust's main office at Battleby, which is located just north of the city of Perth in Scotland.

A competitive remuneration package will be offered including pension contribution and expenses. The successful applicant will be required to confirm their right to work in the United Kingdom.

To apply for this job, please send a covering letter and CV by email to lorna@atlanticsalmontrust.org

Closing date for applications is Thursday 27th January 2022.

The following are a set of criteria against which the applications from potential candidates will be appraised.

1. Knowledge / Qualifications

Essential

Practical experience of working in the field, with the ability to identify piscivorous bird species.
Knowledge of otter/mink behaviour and the ability to identify mammalian scat.
A full driving licence.

Desirable

An appropriate degree in ecology or biology.
Some background knowledge of the use of eDNA as a research and conservation tool, and of
Experience of taking biological samples in the field.
Specific knowledge of recording bird behaviour.
Experience of wild fish handling.

2. Skills

Essential

Evidence of skills required for field working in demanding environments to high health and safety standards.
Cross-discipline collaborative ability.
Appropriate personal skills and ability to work seamlessly with a broad range of individuals in remote areas.

Desirable

IT, GIS and statistical data analysis/interpretation skills, would be of great benefit when in post.
Initiative and judgement to resolve problems independently, including demonstrating a flexible and pragmatic approach.

3. Training

Basic training for the post will be provided over a one-week period in the Ness catchment.