

0482, Fishery Biologist, GS-09

PD Tracking Number 0000765

### Major Duties

Participates in the planning and execution of complex studies and investigations concerning biological, chemical, and physical processes that affect fishery communities and ecosystems. Conducts routine field experiments to test scientific hypotheses. Deploys remote data-collection systems and manipulates and analyzes data from these systems.

Performs assignments in planning the approach and collecting data needed to carry out less complex studies or portions of larger fishery investigations. Performs data analysis and writes reports to evaluate findings.

Plans, organizes, and implements limited biological investigations that affect fishery resources and their habitat conditions. Prepares reports on progress and completion of studies.

Recommends minor modifications to program objectives and associated documentation in accordance with established program directives. Conducts limited program analyses, and reviews results of small studies or investigations. Drafts sections of reports that include minor recommendation for changes, elimination, or improvement of operations and program plans.

Gathers, organizes, and interprets a wide variety of biological, ecological, pathological, public use data or other information pertinent to scientific studies or investigations. Develops and maintains computer databases; and gathers, analyzes, tabulates and summarizes scientific, programmatic, and/or budgetary data.

Performs chemical analysis of environmental samples (water, biota, sediment), ensures that operating procedures are followed, adapts procedures to resolve technical problems, and writes reports that detail results and conclusions.

### FACTOR 1 - KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-6, 950 points)

Professional knowledge of fishery biology theories, concepts, and principles and a working knowledge of related disciplines to conduct conventional aspects of fishery investigations.

Knowledge of techniques to gather, present, and analyze scientific data.

Ability to conduct scientific tests and compile valid and reliable data.

Knowledge of computer software and mathematics to perform data analysis.

Knowledge of techniques to plan work procedures and develop schedules.

#### FACTOR 2 - Supervisory Controls (Level 2-3, 275 points)

The supervisor outlines program objectives and the material, money, and personnel available for conducting project studies. The scientist, supervisor, and other staff scientists or project team members consult on work plans and objectives as required. The scientist independently plans the steps and techniques necessary to complete the assignments in accordance with established biological practices and techniques. Where unusual or unconventional study conditions are encountered, or where problems require modification of established methods or procedures, the incumbent generally discusses the action he/she plans to take beforehand with the supervisor or project chief, as appropriate. Completed work is reviewed for technical adequacy and soundness, as well as accomplishment of overall objectives for assigned project responsibilities.

#### FACTOR 3 GUIDELINES (Level 3-3, 275 points)

Guidelines include policy, procedural, and technical manuals and handbooks; standard professional practices; published research results and related scientific reports; and annual work plans that do not always address specific sets of problems or circumstances encountered. As a result, periodic departure from standardized procedures or conventional study approaches for completion of assignments is required. The scientist modifies existing methods or procedures and makes or recommends compromises required by technical considerations.

#### FACTOR 4 COMPLEXITY (Level 4-3, 150 points)

Assignments typically involve conventional, previously studied, or well-defined scientific processes and conditions. The scientist plans and carries out relatively limited projects and studies, and makes recommendations/decisions regarding straightforward problems.

#### FACTOR 5 SCOPE AND EFFECT (Level 5-3, 150 points)

The purpose of the work is to investigate and analyze conventional biological science conditions and problems. The work affects the protection, management, and use of biological resources.

#### FACTORS 6 & 7 NATURE AND PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 2B 75 points)

Contacts are primarily with the supervisor and coworkers, and with employees in other USGS organizations.

Purpose of contacts is to coordinate work efforts, solve problems, or provide advice on non-controversial issues.

#### FACTOR 8 PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-2, 20 points)

The work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. The work requires moderate physical ability and average agility and dexterity.

#### FACTOR 9 WORK ENVIRONMENT (Level 9-2, 20 points)

Work is performed in an office, laboratory, and/or in the field. The office is adequately lighted, heated, and ventilated. Temperature and weather extremes may be encountered in the performance of the outdoor work. Field and laboratory duties may require the use of special protective gear. The incumbent is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner so as not to endanger self, fellow workers, or property with which entrusted.

TOTAL POINTS 1915

