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Fish Biologist 13

GS-0482-13

NOTE: THE SENTENCE IN PART I DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION AND PARTS II AND III IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE PERMANENT PARTS OF THE LIBRARY AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED OR EDITED IN ANY WAY.

I. INTRODUCTION

The incumbent formulates solutions to unyielding or controversial problems in fish biology; performs in-depth analysis of problems/issues covering a large geographic area or an environmentally varied area; and projects future trends and requirements. Work supports the goal of protecting, restoring, and managing the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Assignments include assessment, management or development of fishery resources and may include data analysis, policy development or compliance responsibilities.

Serves as an expert agency representative working in consultation with international, national, and other officials; provides technical leadership, staff level coordination, and consultation for a major fish resource program; or resolves novel, obscure, or highly controversial problems through findings of specialized studies, new analytical developments, and/or modified processes.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by Position – Level 1-8, 1550 points

Mastery of advanced theories, principles, concepts, practices, standards, and methods of fish biology sufficient to apply findings of specialized studies, new analytical developments, and modified processes to resolve problems of a novel, obscure, or highly controversial nature. The biologist is involved in initiating, formulating, planning, and executing major studies, or continuing special projects; and provides significant and innovative recommendations for advancing programs and/or methods. The biologist is a recognized authority in a specialized area or program.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls – Level 2-4, 450 points

The supervisor outlines overall objectives and available resources. The incumbent and supervisor, in consultation, discuss timeframes and scope of the assignment including possible stages and approaches. The incumbent plans and carries out assignments; resolves most conflicts that arise, coordinates work with others as necessary, interprets policy and regulatory requirements, keeps the supervisor informed of progress and potentially controversial problems, concerns, issues; develops changes to plans and/or methodology; and recommends improvements to meet program objectives. Completed work is reviewed for soundness of overall approach, effectiveness in meeting requirements or producing expected results, the feasibility of recommendations, and adherence to requirements. Methods used by incumbent are not usually reviewed.

Factor 3, Guidelines – Level 3-4, 450 points

Broad guidelines, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, or the National Environment Policy Act are available, but are often not applicable or inadequate, or have gaps in specificity that require considerable interpretation and/or adaptation for application to issues and problems. The biologist uses judgment, initiative, and resourcefulness in deviating from

established methods to deal with specific issues or problems; research trends and patterns; propose new policies and practices; develop new methods, operating procedures, instructions and criteria; and/or modify, adapt, or refine broader guidelines to resolve specific complex issues and problems.

Factor 4, Complexity – Level 4-5, 325 points

Work involves performing a variety of research, testing, or resources management duties requiring in-depth analysis of problems and issues, and use of various control methods and techniques possibly including those in the experimental stage. Issues may involve sensitive and complex endangered species, evaluation of habitat classification and ecological production functions, or major water resource or land based development projects. To decide what needs to be done, the biologist analyzes issues involving abstract concepts; uncertainties with regard to the most effective approach or methodology to apply; continually changing program or work requirements or technological developments; novel and obscure problems; intricate, inconclusive, variable data, and unrelated or conflicting data. The biologist devises new approaches and techniques, formulates solutions to unyielding or controversial problems, and anticipates future trends and requirements.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect – Level 5-4, 225 points

Activities typically involve problems which affect the continued existence of a resource or resource area. The biologist investigates, analyzes, and evaluates varied and/or unusual situations; develops new or improved techniques or alternatives; and/or assesses program effectiveness. The work affects effectiveness and acceptability of agency goals, programs and activities.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts and Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts – Level 3C, 180 points

Contacts are with individuals or groups inside and outside of the agency, and can include biologists and managers from other agencies, contractors, or representatives of professional organizations, the new media, foreign representatives at a peer level, or public action groups. The purpose of contacts is to influence and persuade persons or groups who may be skeptical or uncooperative. Use of persuasion or negotiation techniques is necessary to gain compliance with established policies, or to establish a rapport in order to gain information.

Factor 8, Physical Demands – Level 8-1, 5 points

The work is sedentary.

Factor 9, Work Environment – Level 9-1, 5 points

The work is typically performed in an office setting.

TOTAL POINTS – 3190

This position is exempt from coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last updated:)

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