

# VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

P.O. Box 125 Valdez, AK. 99686 1815 Mineral Ck. Loop Rd. Valdez, AK  
(907)-835-4874 or 1329 Fax (907)-835-4831 lori.plaster@valdezfisheries.com



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**Position:** Fish Culturist

**Location:** Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Valdez, AK.

**Posting date:** 9/6/2019 - Until filled

Are you looking for a fun, challenging and rewarding job in one of the most beautiful and scenic places in Alaska? Do you have at least two years of experience as a fish culturist? Do you have experience with Pacific salmon rearing and working in a large hatchery setting? Do you have excellent leadership skills? If that sounds like you, VFDA is looking for an exceptional candidate for our open Fish Culturist position.

### Organization:

Valdez Fisheries is a private non-profit association dedicated to enhancing salmon fisheries and developing renewable fisheries resources in Prince William Sound. VFDA operates the Solomon Gulch Hatchery which is a modern, large production facility, culturing 270 million pink and 2 million coho salmon eggs. VFDA also manages a small educational seafood processing plant and cold storage to facilitate economic development with local fishermen and develop fisheries resources. VFDA has 16 full time employees and up to 25 seasonal employees and is located within the municipality of Valdez Alaska.

### Job description:

This is a full-time, exempt, salaried position. Under the general supervision of the Hatchery Manager and Assistant Hatchery Manager, the Fish Culturist performs a variety of fish culture duties varying with the season of the year. In addition, each Culturist will be assigned the supervision of an area of responsibility either on a permanent or as-needed basis in the areas of egg take, incubation, rearing, harvest, and laboratory. General site duties shared with other staff members will also be required of each Culturist. Independent judgement and performance is required when initiating and implementing hatchery projects, processes and schedules. The Fish Culturist supervises fish technicians assigned to their projects.

### Essential Job Functions

1. Prepare feeding and rearing schedules, prepare feed, supervise and/or perform necessary feeding activities.
2. Supervise and participate in egg taking, incubation and various fish marking techniques.
3. Maintain and adjust calculated quantities, temperatures and dissolved gas levels of water supplies to provide desired effect to incubation and rearing units. Clean ponds, troughs, tanks, incubators, screens, and work areas.
4. Establish fish loading densities and prepare and monitor systems for the transport of fish to remote locations.
5. Perform gross examination and necropsy of fish for diseases or nutritional disorders.
6. Operate and adjust hatchery apparatus such as electronic measuring devices, scales, etc.
7. Participate in conducting various biological studies such as rearing and migration studies, marked fish recovery, and plankton measurements.
8. Supervise laboratory duties including maintaining chemical records and lab equipment.
9. Other related tasks as assigned by the Hatchery Manager or Assistant Hatchery Manager.

### Qualifications: Minimum required

1. Education — BS in applicable fisheries or related field. Experience in specific areas may be substituted for education.
2. Experience — Demonstrable knowledge in Pacific Salmonid culture is required. Two years experience in a similar position or three experience in a lesser position in a hatchery but with increasing responsibilities. Other combinations of training and experience will be evaluated on an individual basis for relevancy. Working knowledge of electronic spreadsheets and work processing desired. Current driver's license required.

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## **Additional Desirable Qualifications**

A candidate should be motivated, energetic, and able to pass a fit-for-duty physical. A qualified candidate must be able to work independently as well as in a team setting in Alaskan environmental conditions. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a SCUBA certificate.

## **Work Environment**

The Fish Culturist will be exposed to cold and wet conditions frequently. Light levels are low, work with flashlight or headlamp is often required. Noise levels are frequently high due to alarm, machinery, and running water. Requires performing duties on and adjacent to cold water in watercraft and on moored structures where personal flotation devices are required.

## **Difficulties**

This position is physically strenuous. Must have ability to: tolerate long periods of walking or standing; lift equipment and supplies weighing up to 50 pounds, push and pull heavy objects independently and in conjunction with others; bend and stoop frequently; use hands and arms to manipulate small objects with accuracy. The ability to swim is desired. The ability to wear a respirator and obtain physician approval to perform work with a respirator is required when tasks assigned mandate respirator use. Must be able to hear alarms and other auditory warnings, see changes in fish conditions, and observe specimens under a microscope. Must be able to: solve complex problems, use mathematical formulas to accurately obtain and evaluate data, respond appropriately and quickly to hatchery emergencies, have ability to organize time and carry out duties with a minimum of supervision.

## **Personal Relations**

Personal Contact- This position will interact with managers, supervisors and employees, government agencies, and the public.

**Compensation:** Competitive salary and benefits package including health, dental, vision, life insurance, and retirement package with matching company contributions. Starting salary range \$61,458.36 DOE

**Contact:** Send cover letter, resume, application and 3 references to Valdez Fisheries Development Association Inc. at the above e-mail address; Attention: Human Resource Department - Additional copies may be sent by mail or FAX.