

VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**Position:** Maintenance Assistant

**Location:** Solomon Gulch Hatchery, Valdez, AK.

**Posting date:** April 20, 2021 – Open 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 experience in building and mechanical maintenance, plumbing, welding, and working with loaders and boats? VFDA is looking for a qualified applicant to fill its Maintenance Assistant 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. The hatchery has 12 permanent employees and up to 15 seasonal employees and is located within the municipality of Valdez, Alaska.

**Job description:**

This is an agriculture exempt salaried position reporting to the Hatchery Manager and Maintenance Supervisor with office and hands on fieldwork. The Maintenance Assistant performs a variety of maintenance duties for keeping all buildings, mechanical systems and equipment properly maintained through both scheduled and as-needed service, as well as assisting in fish culture operations. Independent judgement and performance is required when initiating and implementing hatchery projects, processes and schedules.

**Essential job functions:**

- Implement preventative maintenance schedules.
- Keep updated spare parts inventory.
- Perform maintenance and repair on generators, pumps, hatchery heating and hot water systems, pumps and fuel distribution systems, lighting systems, boat engines, hatchery domestic water and wastewater system.
- Fabricate new tools and equipment by utilizing aluminum and steel welding and other metalworking tools.
- Maintaining equipment on a scheduled and as-needed basis, including heavy equipment, pumps, etc.
- Keep a log of maintenance activities.
- Coordinate with the Hatchery Manager and Maintenance Supervisor to prioritize and schedule daily and weekly jobs.
- Assist in routine site rounds.
- Snow removal.
- Assist in any and all phases of the fish production operations.
- Inform the Hatchery Manager and Maintenance Supervisor expediently of all safety considerations.
- Maintain familiarity with the water system and be aware of all back up and emergency action plans currently applicable.
- Participate in the on-call and back-up schedule. When on-call, an employee will be available by phone during the seven-day on-call period. During the assigned period of on-call, the employee will make a daily walk-through of the hatchery and communicate with the site responsible person.
- Other duties as assigned by the Hatchery Manager and Maintenance Supervisor.

**Qualifications:** Minimum required

**Education:** High school graduate of equivalent. Prefer post-secondary training or education in a technically related field.

**Experience and Skills:** Two years experience in a similar position, preferably in a hatchery environment. Current driver's license required.

**Physical:** 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.

**Sensory:** Must be able to hear alarms and other auditory warnings, see changes in fish conditions.

**Cognitive:** Must be able to solve 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.

**Work Conditions:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

- **Environment:** Exposure to cold and wet conditions frequently. May be exposed to paint, welding, gas and diesel fumes. Infrequent work in confined areas. Work in low light areas with flashlight or headlamp is sometimes 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.
- **Hazards:** Exposure to fumes such as paint, welding, gas and diesel; toxic chemicals, primarily formaldehyde; sharp objects; and power tools. Potential hazard of hypothermia when working on water.

**Compensation:**

Competitive salary and benefits package including health, dental, vision, health savings account, life insurance, and retirement package with matching company contributions. Salary starts at \$ 62,878.40 (DOE).

**Contact:**

Send cover letter, resume, VFDA general application (located on VFDA's website - [valdezfisheries.org](http://valdezfisheries.org)) and 3 references to [lori.plaster@valdezfisheries.com](mailto:lori.plaster@valdezfisheries.com) - Additional copies may be sent by mail or FAX.