



Student Internship Opportunity

HARVEST: Helping Aquaculture Reap Value and Enhance Student Training

Florida Sea Grant (FSG) is pleased to announce a university and college student internship program, HARVEST: Helping Aquaculture Reap Value and Enhance Student Training, offering college students paid part-time internships (up to 20 hours per week) with aquaculture businesses. The duties of these internships include but are not limited to farm work including gear maintenance, animal husbandry, harvesting, processing, culling, data collection, equipment maintenance, assisting with aquaculture-based science experiments, outreach and education, communications and marketing. The internship will aid in a variety of needs denoted by the aquaculture business to increase survivability, productivity, efficiency, sustainability, public outreach, and education.

This internship opportunity will place a currently enrolled student with Treasure Coast Shellfish, LLC (<https://www.treasurecoastshellfish.com/>). Based in the Indian River Lagoon, the most bio-diverse estuary in North America, Treasure Coast Shellfish raises eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) as part of the growing oyster aquaculture industry in Florida. Working with Treasure Coast Shellfish will offer a unique opportunity for the intern to be actively engaged in all farm operations including nursery, grow-out, harvesting and processing of oysters.

Internship Duties

The HARVEST intern will gain experience in all facets of oyster aquaculture. Treasure Coast Shellfish's aquaculture leases and processing facility are in Indian River County (Sebastian, FL), where the majority of the work will be performed. Working with Treasure Coast Shellfish the intern will be trained in using bottom (rack and bag) and off-bottom (floating cage) oyster culture methods. Duties include, but are not limited to, constructing, and maintaining culture gear, cultivation, grading, harvesting, and processing of oysters, and potential shellfish hatchery work. The intern will assist with ongoing scientific studies evaluating performance and health of selectively bred oysters, and local oyster broodstock. The intern will also be expected to perform independent research on evaluating the efficacy of wild, juvenile oyster (spat) collection techniques for aquaculture. For all projects, the intern will be expected to maintain gear and equipment, collect data, maintain detailed records and observations.

Internship requirements:

- Must be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student, preferably in a STEM-related discipline.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must be organized, punctual, and on time for work.
- Must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation to work sites in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties.
- Must be capable of understanding and following instructions from the supervisor.
- Must be able to work outside in all weather conditions - wet, cold, hot, dry, & rough water, at various times of the day, including early morning hours, evenings, and weekends when necessary.
- Must be able to swim.
- Must be physically able to lift, push, and pull up to 60 pounds.
- Must wear proper safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) when necessary and comply with all health and safety guidelines.
- Must be able to speak and understand English.
- Must work well with other crew members, and independently.
- Must maintain work area(s) and be respectful of neighboring communities and businesses.
- Must have their own supply of dive mask, snorkel, fins, wetsuit, dive booties, rain gear etc.
- Access to a personal computer for data entry.

Preferred Experience

- CPR Certified
- Boat handling experience
- Scuba Certified
- Knowledgeable about Florida's Indian River Lagoon ecosystem
- Shellfish experience & knowledge

Compensation and Schedule

Student interns will be established as OPS employees of the University of Florida with a set salary of \$15/hour. The intern will work an average of 20 hours/week for approximately 9 months (Jan-Sept 2021, or a total of 720 hours). Some flexibility in the schedule is allowed, to establish the working relationship between the student intern and aquaculture business, and to account for seasonal variations in work requirements such as harvesting periods and gear maintenance.

Application

A review of applications will begin January 4, 2021. The internship will begin January 25, 2021. Submit a cover letter, resumé and list of at least 3 references to Dr. Vincent Encomio (vencomio@ufl.edu). Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please email Dr. Encomio with any questions.

Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the US. The University of Florida is a public institution and subject to all requirements under Florida Sunshine and Public Record laws. The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The University of Florida is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression.