

CalCOFI eDNA technician job description

We are seeking a laboratory technician to lead the sample processing, quality control, and organization of eDNA from archived zooplankton samples. This work will support the development of a 25-year time series of zooplankton community composition in the southern California Current System from archived California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) biorepositories. Specifically, the candidate will generate eDNA samples by filtering preservation buffer (ethanol) from archived bongo net tows and extracting DNA from the filters. The biorepositories for this project are housed in the Pelagic Invertebrate Collection (PIC) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; as such, the candidate will work closely with PIC managers to appropriately transfer, log, and replace source material. The candidate will also coordinate closely with the CalCOFI Molecular Ecology team to assess progress, sample quality, and record completeness. In addition to eDNA filtration and extraction, some quality checks may be required involving polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other molecular biology techniques.

Skills and experience: Bachelor's degree in biology, microbiology, biochemistry, marine science, or related field. Minimum of one year job-related experience (supervised undergraduate research experiences count towards this requirement). Working knowledge of molecular biology and sterile laboratory techniques, including PCR, DNA extraction, and next-generation DNA sequencing library preparation. Strong organizational skills. Excellent interpersonal communication skills (oral and written). Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively in a team environment. Careful attention to detail and record keeping. Experience with MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel or equivalent. Preference for genetics and molecular biology coursework and genomics and/or genetics laboratory experience.

Supervisor: Dr. Nastassia V. Patin, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego