

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

834 Lincoln Street, Suite 200
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Admin Phone: 907.747.8878
www.sitkascience.org



Position Title	Aquarist
SSSC Status	Regular, Full Time, Overtime Exempt
Supervised by	
Compensation	Salaried, Holiday and Leave as outlined in SSSC Employee Handbook
Place of Work	834 Lincoln Street, Sitka Alaska

The Molly O Ahlgren Aquarium is a small but high-profile saltwater aquarium used as an educational tool at the Sitka Sound Science Center. Inclusion and equity are core values of the Sitka Sound Science Center. We are passionate about building and sustaining an inclusive and equitable working and learning environment for students, researchers, and staff. We believe every member of our staff and visitor to our facility enriches our diversity by sharing a broad range of ways to understand and engage with the world, identify challenges, and discover solutions. We welcome the unique contributions you bring through your education, opinions, culture, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity or expression, nation of origin, age, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, ancestry, and beliefs. We encourage you to pursue your interests, develop your potential, and bring your full self to work.

SSSC considers equivalent combinations of experience and education for certain jobs. All candidates who believe they possess equivalent experience and education are encouraged to apply.

Background:

Sitka Sound Science Center's Molly Ahlgren Aquarium connects residents and visitors to the underwater life around Sitka. The Aquarist is responsible for developing and maintaining the aquarium so that people experience a positive and lasting impression of our local marine ecology when they visit the science center. The ideal candidate will have a general excitement about the marine environment and a willingness to collaborate with multiple departments to execute our mission.

SSSC's Aquarist oversees the maintenance, animal care, and development of the Molly Ahlgren aquarium to ensure the exhibits are memorable and kept healthy and clean. Animal welfare is a priority for SSSC and the Aquarist will be responsible for ensuring that best husbandry practices are a feature of our aquarium. This position is ultimately responsible for collection of marine life, permitting related to collecting and keeping marine animals, and overall aesthetics of the aquarium. The Aquarist will work proactively with the Facilities Manager on the maintenance and repair of life support systems. An eye for detail and the ability to find a solution will be central to this position.

Additionally, the Aquarist will assist with and lead special aquarium events or tours, conduct outreach with the mobile aquarium, and contribute to the oversight of and input to the aquarium re-design project.

Duties include but are not limited to:

1. Feed and care for all animals in the aquarium
2. Maintain feeding plans for all animals
3. Collect animals for the aquarium

4. Keep aquarium permitting current and up to date
5. Maintain saltwater plumbing and systems for the aquarium
6. Design and curate aquarium exhibits
7. Maintain aquarium tanks and exhibits
8. Gather information and research for exhibits
9. Work with Education Department to provide educational support for aquarium-based programming
10. Assist with long term facility planning and short term tourist and traffic flow planning
11. Identify areas of interest and develop programs for visitors, the local community, and research projects
12. Assist in fund-raising events
13. Manage aquarium budget and expenses.

Qualifications:

1. An understanding of marine life support systems for aquarium management
2. Dive certification and experience with specimen collection
3. Outstanding communication skills
4. Comfortable working in a collaborative environment

The Sitka Sound Science Center is a non-profit dedicated to scientific research and science education relevant to our community, region, and state. SSSC strives to create a supportive and fun work environment with flexible work schedules and significant leave benefits to allow our employees a great work/life balance and opportunities to get out and play.

Email resume, cover letter and two references to Chance Gray (he, him, his), SSSC Operations Manager, at cgray@sitkascience.org.