INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

23 October 2019

IPHC CIRCULAR 2019-022

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A LIFE HISTORY MODELER

Dear Commissioners,

Recalling that at the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) the Commission made the following request of the IPHC Secretariat:

> AM095–Req.05 (para. 117) *The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a proposal for a potential Life History Modeller to join the IPHC Secretariat and for this to be provided to the Commission for consideration inter-sessionally.*

Please find attached a draft proposal for a Life History Modeler which the IPHC Scientific Review Board has reviewed and commented upon.

The intention is for Commissioners to review the proposal and share comments inter-sessionally, before considering it for potential approval at AM096 in February 2020.

Yours sincerely

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, IPHC

Attachments: Draft proposal for a life history modeler

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

Evolutionary Ecologist/Life History Modeler

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is seeking a qualified researcher for a three-year appointment to assist the IPHC Secretariat in conducting life history modeling studies on Pacific halibut.

The IPHC manages the Pacific halibut resource for the governments of Canada and the United States of America, with offices in Seattle, WA, USA.

Principal Duties

The researcher will work with the Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch and the Quantitative Sciences Branch of the IPHC to evaluate biological data on Pacific halibut in light of life history/evolutionary history and provide quantitative dynamic estimates of Pacific halibut life history traits relevant to the assessment and management strategy evaluation programs. Research will be conducted within the IPHC Secretariat and focus on the following topics:

- Develop novel analytical techniques to perform synthesis of biological information for use in stock assessment and management strategy evaluation.
- Analyse and model data from a variety of biological research areas, including migration and distribution, growth, and age-specific reproduction and survival, size and age at sexual maturity on Pacific halibut.
- Evaluate effects of environmental and climate variability on large-scale patterns of distribution, productivity, and life-history traits on Pacific halibut.
- Participate in the design of research projects to collect data that will contribute to further understanding of Pacific halibut life history.
- Write scientific reports and assist with and/or author peer-reviewed papers
- Develop existing and create novel scientific collaborations with agencies and academic institutions, both nationally and internationally.
- Present scientific research at scientific conferences and meetings, as well as in stakeholder and board meetings.

Deliverables (in approximate months from commencement):

- Investigate the influence of reproductive traits (e.g. size/age-at-maturation; frequency of reproduction) for population dynamics (18).
- Synthesize results from past and ongoing studies on migration, growth and physiological condition of Pacific halibut to improve current understanding of the spatial and temporal changes in productivity of the stock (36).
- Develop grant proposals (12)
- Publish at least two manuscripts in leading peer-reviewed journals (36).

Qualifications and Experience

Education: Ph.D. degree in a scientific discipline related to evolutionary biology and population ecology.

Professional experience: Three or more years of experience in quantitative biological research with a focus on life history evolution.

Required qualifications/experience:

- Experience in life history modeling.
- Experience analyzing and fitting life history models to complex and/or unbalanced biological data sets.
- Experience programming in R;
- Potential to learn and use other coding and analysis tools such as C++, ADMB, and TMB
- Creative problem-solving ability;
- Demonstrated ability to develop new methods for life history modeling and to interpret results collaboratively with other scientists;
- Proficiency in writing scientific reports and papers as well as research proposals and grants;
- Demonstrated ability to create tables and graphics to communicate information to a wide range of stakeholders;
- Experience communicating complex concepts, models, and results through discussion and oral presentation.

Desired qualifications/experience:

- Expertise in aquatic sciences, fish ecology, fisheries, and applied fisheries management.
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Salary and Benefits

The annual salary for this position is equivalent to a IPHC-GS-12 level which ranges from $81,268 to $114,464 (2019 rates), depending on experience and demonstrated skills. The IPHC offers a range of benefits including medical (100% employer-paid), life insurance, cancer care, and long-term disability insurance, vacation, sick leave, and 403(b) program (employer contribution and match).

Application

The IPHC is an International Governmental Organization and as such will consider applicants regardless of nationality. Due to the nature of the work and the organization, a background check is also a condition of employment.

Applications must be submitted by **XX XXXX YYYY**. Applications may submitted through the IPHC website at https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/opportunities. Candidates will be selected for an interview based on meeting basic qualifications and additional demonstrated experience.

For more information about this position, please email secretariat@iphc.int and cite **Job Reference Number 20XX-XXX**.