

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1509, USA – www.iattc.org
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Vacancy Announcement

Stock Assessment Scientist for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) invites applications for the position of Stock Assessment Scientist. This is a fulltime appointment to work at the headquarters of this international organization, located in La Jolla, California, U.S.A.

The IATTC is the regional fisheries management organization responsible for the implementation of the 2003 Antigua Convention, the objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The IATTC employs a scientific staff that operates under the supervision of the Director of the Commission and of its Coordinator of Scientific Research. The functions of the scientific staff are defined in article XIII of the Convention and include, among others, conducting scientific research, providing information and scientific advice and collecting statistical data. More information about the IATTC can be found at www.iattc.org.

The selected applicant will work as part of the IATTC Stock Assessment Program under the supervision of the Head of the Program.

Duties of the selected applicant may include, among others:

- Working with IATTC database managers to create data extractions, post-process data, and conduct statistical analyses necessary for including data in stock assessment models.
- Running stock assessment models
- Lead the assessment for one fish stock
- Conducting research and developing new and extending existing methods to improve stock assessments.
- Writing technical reports and publications.
- Presenting stock assessments and associated analyses at IATTC meetings and, as appropriate, other meetings (international and national)
- Assisting IATTC Members with capacity building activities such as short courses on stock assessment
- Assisting national institutions and other international organizations (e.g. the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean) with conducting stock assessments and participating, as appropriate, in meetings and other collaborative activities

Selection Criteria

Experience in a relevant quantitative field, with either a dissertation focusing on fisheries stock assessment or closely related subject or extensive experience in stock assessment. A PhD is strongly preferred, but relevant experience will be considered for other cases.

Candidates should also possess the following skills:

- A solid understanding of population dynamics and population dynamics modelling
- A good understanding of applied and theoretical statistics

Other desired skills

- Familiarity with Stock Synthesis.
- Familiarity with AD Model Builder and/or Template Model Builder.
- Experience with conducting fisheries stock assessments.
- Knowledge of fisheries and fisheries data.
- Strong proficiency with standard statistical modeling techniques such as generalized linear mixed-effects models, generalized additive models, and mixture models (e.g., zero-inflated models).
- Good knowledge of spatial-temporal modelling approaches.
- Strong proficiency with the R programming language.
- Familiarity with ACCESS and SQL.
- Familiarity with C or C++.
- Experience with purse-seine and/or longline fisheries (particularly distant water longline fisheries), including fisheries data and fishery operations.
- Familiarity with environmental and oceanographic data.
- Willingness to work in an office setting, primarily with computer databases, computer programs, and statistical software.
- Willingness to travel when necessary.
- Strong inter-personal skills and experience working as a part of a team, as well as working independently.
- Willingness to learn new skills and to self-teach new methods.
- Creativity to adapt current methods or develop new methods as required to solve applied problems.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Working knowledge of English is required and a working knowledge of Spanish is desirable.

Salary and Allowances

Commensurate with qualifications, skills, and experience. The base salary for an applicant with a PhD will be equivalent to an adjusted US Federal pay grade GS 13:1 (US\$101,336 per year).

Benefits include annual leave with pay, sick leave with pay, medical, dental, long-term disability and life insurance and a generous defined contribution pension plan.

Availability

The candidate chosen for the post should be available to report at IATTC headquarters in early September, 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications

Applications may be submitted in either English or Spanish and should be sent no later than July 31, 2017 in electronic format to tmusano@iattc.org, or to the following address:

Teresa Musano
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive,
La Jolla CA 92037-1509
USA

Applications should include the following:

- A cover letter containing a statement of purpose of the application and succinct descriptions of the applicant's experiences and abilities.
- Curriculum Vitae – preferably the applicant should fill, electronically or in hardcopy, the IATTC personal history form that can accessed at <http://www.iattc.org/StaffVacancies/IATTCPersonalHistoryForm.pdf>
- Official copy of transcripts and college degree.
- List of training courses, special skills, certificates and licenses, honors, or awards that relate to the specific description of this announcement. Please do not include copies of certificates.
- List of publications
- Letters of reference from persons with a recent knowledge of the applicant's character, qualifications and experience.
- A health certificate or statement issued by a competent medical doctor indicating that the candidate is physically able to perform the functions of the position as described in this announcement, or is otherwise in good health.
- A statement as to whether or not the applicant's current supervisor may be contacted.

Additional Information

Please consult the IATTC website at www.iattc.org for complete information on IATTC duties and the application process.