



Pinto Abalone Technician Position Description

[Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#) (PSRF) works to restore abundant marine resources and our connections to them through a diverse portfolio of in-the-water projects throughout Puget Sound. The main focus of our restoration is living marine habitat and species, using structure forming species (Olympia oysters, bull kelp) and habitat enhancing species (pinto abalone). Our team of 16 staff works to advance our mission of designing, testing and spearheading in-water actions to restore Puget Sound's marine habitats, species, and waters – for people and place.

We are seeking an Abalone Technician to join our team at the [Kenneth K. Chew Center for Shellfish Research and Restoration](#) (Chew Center) that we operate at NOAA's Manchester Research Station on the Kitsap Peninsula, Washington. The Technician will assist across our research and restoration efforts at the Chew Center, including production of pinto abalone, Olympia oysters, and kelp, microalgae culture, animal husbandry, data collection and management, and facilities maintenance. This is a full-time, salaried position; salary range is \$35,000-\$40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The Technician's primary focus will be to contribute to the successful rearing of pinto abalone as part of recovery efforts for the species. The Technician will assist with culture and hatchery production, with an emphasis on husbandry operations, including weekly cleaning and feeding of animals, and management of life support systems for optimal animal health and grow-out. The successful Technician will be passionate about marine conservation, have strong communication skills, be detail oriented and be capable of completing physically demanding projects. They will regularly be expected to work independently to accomplish program objectives, see tasks through accurately to completion, and to maintain clean, organized laboratory and hatchery facilities. The work environment at the Chew Center is such that the Technician should expect to work outside year-round for a portion of their days, be able to lift 50 pounds, able to climb step stools and ladders, work in cramped spaces with wet, uneven flooring and sustain moderate noise levels. The Technician is required to adhere to all NOAA on-site protocols related to COVID safety; the Chew Center is a smoke and drug-free station. PSRF is a team environment, and they will have support across PSRF staff to ensure tasks are successfully accomplished.

Responsibilities

1. Pinto abalone husbandry to ensure health and well-being of larval, juvenile, and broodstock animals
 - Care for captive pinto abalone, including tank cleaning, assessment, and feeding.
 - Build and maintain abalone culture systems, including filters, pumps, heaters/chillers, plumbing, UV units.
 - Maintain dulse/kelp tumble culture, and benthic diatom cultures.
 - Assess and improve life support systems and processes involved in abalone husbandry for Chew Center and partner facilities holding pinto abalone.
 - Assist with pinto abalone spawning, larval culture, and settlement at Chew Center and partner facilities.
 - Assist with communication about husbandry needs across pinto abalone rearing facilities.
 - Collect and maintain abalone production data, including animal inventory and assessment data.
2. Support abalone research with graduate students, other PSRF biologists and interns to optimize hatchery production and nursery grow-out. Research could include broodstock conditioning, sperm

cryopreservation, water chemistry effects, feed enhancement, settlement cues, optimal post-set biofilm/bacterial communities, investigating integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems.

3. Supplies and equipment management, including: purchasing, inventory, and maintenance of laboratory supplies and equipment; and creating and updating standard operating protocols for laboratory functions.
4. Participate in abalone restoration field work, including: loading and transporting animals to restoration sites and partner facilities; and coordinating with WDFW to harvest bull kelp.
5. Contribute to core Chew Center operations, including: assisting with production and husbandry of other shellfish species, kelp and microalgae; contributing to the development of an inclusive and accessible working environment; and maintaining cleanliness of shared workspaces.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree OR 4 years of experience in a relevant field (e.g., biology, environmental science), or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Strong interest in marine ecosystems, environmental restoration and conservation.
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to prepare written communications and perform data recording/entry.
- Willingness to work occasional weekend, late-night and holiday shifts, including overtime on short notice to meet operational needs.
- At least 21 years old and have proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.

Recommended Qualifications

- Experience with marine or aquatic organism care or culture, laboratory equipment maintenance, and/or marine aquaculture.
- Demonstrated experience with microscopy, general laboratory equipment and procedures.
- Careful laboratory skills and attention to detail.
- Experience with carpentry and plumbing, including use of power tools and other heavy equipment.
- Demonstrated extensive recreational and/or professional SCUBA diving experience (e.g., scientific, divemaster, or commercial).

PSRF recognizes that people build skills through all sorts of experiences, and welcome applicants with a wide variety of backgrounds. We warmly welcome candidates from backgrounds that are underrepresented in marine science and restoration to apply. PSRF seeks to create an inclusive and equitable work environment at PSRF and in our work with partners, and are committed to supporting and retaining staff. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status, or genetic information.

To apply

- Please email a resume, cover letter and names of 3 references to Jodie Toft (jodie@restorationfund.org) by March 4, 2022.