

Postdoc Position to Map Global Whale-Ship Co-Occurrence (UW Seattle)

A postdoc position is available in the Abrahms lab at the University of Washington, Seattle to examine whale-ship interactions at a global scale. The initial appointment will be for one year with expectation of reappointment for a second year conditional on performance. The postdoc will be supervised by Dr. Briana Abrahms (abrahms@uw.edu) and work closely with project partners at The Nature Conservancy, Benioff Ocean Initiative, Global Fishing Watch, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Marine shipping poses one of the greatest threats to large whales. The goals of this project are to explore the intersection between large whales and marine shipping traffic and to identify global hotspots of overlap and collision risk. Deliverables of the project include:

1. Presenting and facilitating technical discussions at 1-2 workshops with project partners and data contributors
2. Creating gridded geographic range maps (e.g. kernel densities, utilization distributions, or species distribution models) using compiled whale presence data
3. Creating whale-ship co-occurrence maps and conducting a hotspot analysis
4. Publishing results (1-2 papers) in a peer-reviewed journal

The [Abrahms lab](#) integrates global change biology with behavioral and spatial ecology to study and mitigate the effects of environmental change on wildlife populations. The lab sits within the Department of Biology's Center for Ecosystem Sentinels at the University of Washington, Seattle. The University of Washington (Seattle campus), a leader in undergraduate and graduate education, and one of the world's premiere research universities, offers rigorous academic programs, outstanding faculty, and diverse cultural and social opportunities in a stimulating intellectual environment. Our Seattle location is ideal, with access to a multitude of collaboration opportunities in a vibrant urban location with the allure of the mountains, forests, water and islands within 45 minutes of campus. The [Department of Biology](#) is a highly integrative department that takes a connective approach to the life sciences, fostering collaboration and intellectual partnerships across many different disciplines. The department has an unusual breadth of top-notch faculty, postdocs, and students who study topics at spatial scales ranging from molecules to the entire planet. The [Center for Ecosystem Sentinels](#) is an exciting new initiative bringing together researchers advancing the ecology and conservation of species that act as sentinels to the state of their ecosystems by linking results from multi-disciplinary science to policy outcomes.

The University of Washington (UW) is located in the greater Seattle metropolitan area, with a dynamic, multicultural community of 3.7 million people and a range of ecosystems from mountains to ocean. The UW serves a diverse population of 80,000 students, faculty and staff, including 25% first-generation college students, over 25% Pell Grant students, and faculty from over 70 countries. The UW is a recipient of a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award to increase the advancement of women faculty in science, engineering, and math (see <http://advance.washington.edu/>). In the Department of Biology, we continue to strive for an inclusive and welcoming departmental culture that recognizes and encourages individual differences, that fosters the constructive expression of ideas, and that promotes shared values such as intellectual curiosity, creativity, collegiality, and sense of mission. Thus, we are seeking candidates whose experiences have prepared them to fulfill our commitment to inclusion and have given them the confidence to fully engage audiences from a wide spectrum of backgrounds. All candidates must address their commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity as part of a diversity statement in their application. This statement can discuss your experience(s) as an individual from a traditionally underrepresented group in higher education; your actions on issues related to diversity, inclusion, and equity; or any topics related to these themes.

Postdoctoral scholars are represented by UAW 4121 and are subject to the collective bargaining agreement, unless agreed exclusion criteria apply. For more information, please visit the University of Washington Labor Relations website.

Qualifications

1. Candidates must hold a PhD.
2. The successful candidate for this position will have expertise in spatial analyses of point and/or movement data (e.g. animals, human transportation), and experience working with large datasets.
3. Experience bringing together diverse datasets and incorporating multiple sources of uncertainty into analyses, such as through ensemble approaches or Bayesian hierarchical modeling, highly desirable. Experience with programming in R, as well as strong analytical, collaboration, and writing skills, are required.
4. Applicants must have a demonstrated record of publication in peer-reviewed journals, including at least one first-author publication or submitted manuscript in a biological journal.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit an application via Interfolio: <https://apply.interfolio.com/86253>. The deadline to apply is **June 1st 2021**. Start date is negotiable but September 2021 is preferred. The application package should include:

1. **CV**
2. **Statement of research interests and relevant skill set**
3. **Copies of relevant publications or representative sample of scholarly work**
4. **The names and contact information for 3 references**
5. **Diversity Statement addressing diversity and equity**

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, gender identity or expression, age, disability, or protected veteran status.

Commitment to Diversity

The University of Washington is committed to building diversity among its faculty, librarian, staff, and student communities, and articulates that commitment in the UW Diversity Blueprint (<http://www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/>). Additionally, the University's Faculty Code recognizes faculty efforts in research, teaching and/or service that address diversity and equal opportunity as important contributions to a faculty member's academic profile and responsibilities (<https://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/FCG/FCCH24.html#2432>).

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