

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation

Job Announcement

This is not a state position

Job Title: Post-doctoral Research Associate – *Ceratonova shasta* in the Klamath River and beyond: ecology and management of a parasite impacting salmon populations

Location: U.S. Geological Survey California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Cal Poly Humboldt, Department of Fisheries Biology, Arcata, California, 95521

Wage: \$72,000 (year 1) and \$75,000 (year 2). This is a benefited position that accrues sick and vacation leave, retirement contributions, and medical, dental, vision, and life insurance.

Supervisor: The position will be supervised by Dr. Nicholas A. Som, faculty in the Department of Fisheries Biology, Cal Poly Humboldt and Unit Leader for the California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Position mentors will also include Dr. Russell Perry from the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center and Dr. Julie Alexander from Oregon State University.

<https://www.humboldt.edu/fisheries-biology/nicholas-som>

<https://som-ecostat.com/>

About Cal Poly Humboldt: Cal Poly Humboldt is a small to medium sized university located in a relatively remote area of Northern California. It sits near Humboldt Bay, 5 minutes from the beautiful coastline, nestled by majestic redwood forests. The university has numerous facilities, including the Telonicher Marine Lab located in Trinidad (15 minutes from the main campus). Learn more about the university and location [here](#).

Expected start date: Later Summer/Early Fall 2026

Essential functions of the job:

This project will focus on the intersection of water management with the ecology of *Ceratonova shasta*, which is a parasite that infects salmonids and can lead to high levels of mortality. Recently, four large dams were removed along the mainstem Klamath River, which has opened over 400 miles of river previously inaccessible to migratory fish for nearly a century. Additionally, nearly a decade of research, monitoring, and water management actions have helped reduce *C. shasta* mortality risk. In 2016, a series of technical memoranda were prepared to summarize existing knowledge and inform the next round of management decisions. These memoranda centered on Klamath River fish infections, intermediate host ecology, infectious waterborne spores, and geomorphic river discharges. Since that time, a tremendous amount has been learned regarding the ecology of the parasite and Pacific salmon, and multiple management actions have been implemented to reduce mortality risk.

The project includes two tasks:

Task 1: Update the original technical memoranda analyses with new Klamath data, and synthesize recent and emerging *C. shasta* science across the geographic range of the parasite to better inform resource management decision making in the Klamath Basin.

Although the scientific understanding regarding the ecology and impacts of *C. shasta* is most advanced in the Klamath River, more recent studies have examined *C. shasta* impacts in other Western United States rivers, including the Feather River of California and Deschutes River of Oregon. Importantly, the parasite is endemic, but for millennia existed in balance with salmonid hosts, and understanding what factors led to this more balanced lifecycle is important to inform future management. This task will involve collation, organization, and synthesis of available information on the parasite across its range. This will allow scientists and managers to learn from other studies and systems, compare and contrast how the parasite lifecycle manifests across its range, and most importantly, further refine management in the Klamath Basin by drawing from a larger body of work and insight.

Task 2: Evaluate the effectiveness of various water management actions targeting reductions in parasite-based mortality for Klamath salmon.

Data including various flow, water temperature, parasite density, salmon disease incidence and mortality, etc., data will be collated according to a suite of water management actions that have been implemented to combat *C. shasta* mortality risk in the Klamath River. Statistical and graphical analyses will be conducted to evaluate evidence for the efficacy of the implemented flow events, and any other lessons learned that can be applied to future decision frameworks to improve the efficient use of important water resources.

Other duties include mentoring graduate students, leading lab-wide review paper authorship and coordination, travel to meetings with collaborators and conferences (all travel covered by grant funds), etc.

Deliverable expectations include lead authorship of at least one journal article per Task described above, and presentations at professional conferences.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in fisheries, natural resources, wildlife, biology, ecology, statistics, or related fields.
- Demonstrated statistical and/or biological modeling experience, including Bayesian and maximum likelihood estimation, integrated population models, etc.
- Research Experience
- Strong organizational, writing, and communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaborative teams

Application Instructions: Please email a cover letter, resume or CV, transcripts (unofficial are acceptable; official are preferred), proof of data analysis and writing skills, and contact information of 3 references, along with the ** [SPF Self-Identification Form for Job Applicants](#) to nicholas.som@humboldt.edu

Point of Contact (note that Nick will be on vacation until the end of July and won't be available to answer questions until he returns)

Nicholas A. Som, Ph.D.

Unit Leader - U.S. Geological Survey California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Adj. Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt

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Application review date: First review August 5, 2026, open until filled.

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other legally protected status. More information about Cal Poly Humboldt SPF's Equal Employment Opportunity hiring can be found [here](#).

SPF adheres to the policy of employment at will, which permits the employer or the employee to end the employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice as permissible by law. No SPF representative other than the Executive Director may modify at-will status and/or provide any special arrangement concerning terms or conditions of employment in an individual case or generally and any such modification must be in a signed writing.

Maintaining eligibility to work in the United States is a condition of employment. Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation does not sponsor visas for staff, management, or temporary positions.

For assistance with the application process, please submit an Accommodation Request Form, which can be [found here](#) or contact ADA Coordinator at 707.826.3626 or confidential fax at 707.826.3625. For more information regarding accommodation, you may also visit the Cal Poly Humboldt Human Resources website at <https://disability.humboldt.edu/>. Individuals in need of a telecommunications relay service may contact the California Relay Service at 877.735.2929 TTY.