



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
of Suffolk County



Peconic Estuary
PROGRAM

Position Title: Peconic Estuary Program Internship: Alewife Monitoring
Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
423 Griffing Avenue Riverhead, NY 11901

Position Summary: The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is an innovative partnership of local, state, and federal governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions charged with carrying out the goals of improved water quality and ecosystem health as outlined in PEP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.

The intern will assist with Alewife monitoring during the spring to determine how many Alewife are using the Grangebel Park fish passage and coming up the Peconic River to spawn. The internship will be based out of Riverhead, NY. The majority of the work will be outdoors during the day in potentially adverse weather conditions. A reliable source of transportation is necessary. This opportunity will be approximately 10-20 hours per week from March 1st through May 15th, 2020. This is a non-paid internship.

Background: Every spring, Alewife travel from the ocean to coastal waters and eventually make their way into freshwater rivers and streams to spawn. However, barriers – such as dams and road culverts – can block them from reaching their spawning habitat. The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is working with its partners to [restore access for alewife to their critical freshwater habitat](#) by providing passage through or around these barriers. In 2010 a fishway was built at the Grangebel Park Dam on the Peconic River, restoring access to 25 acres of habitat for alewife and other diadromous fish. Since the completion of this fishway, the PEP has been [monitoring Alewife on the Peconic River](#), through visual fish counts and biological sampling. Last year a video camera was installed at the Grangebel Park fishway to get a better estimate of the number of Alewife using this fishway and coming up the Peconic River to spawn. PEP will install a video camera at the Grangebel fishway again in 2020 to monitor the alewife population.

Major Responsibilities

- Visit Grangebel Park in Riverhead, NY 2-3 times per week to assist with cleaning and maintenance of video camera, and use YSI to take temperature, salinity, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen measurements.
- Assist with biological sampling of Alewife (sex, length and possibly weight) at Woodhull Dam in Riverhead, NY.
- Assist with data input and analysis.

Skills:

- Ability to volunteer outdoors and perform physical tasks as needed.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks while maintaining a positive and professional attitude.

Please send resume, cover letter and a writing sample to Lauren Scheer ls893@cornell.edu 631-727-7850 ext. 337 and Elizabeth Hornstein elizabeth.hornstein@dec.ny.gov 631-444-0871 by February 1st, 2020.

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