

Title: Social Scientist

Organization Name: Integrated Statistics

Job Summary

Integrated Statistics is looking for a social scientist to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Social Science Branch of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The Social Sciences Branch conducts research relating to economic and socio-cultural factors of fisheries management, and supports the management process by participating in the development of regulatory alternatives and analyzing resulting impacts. Recently, catch share programs have received an increasing amount of attention. With the recent addition of new programs in the Northeast and the expectation that more of these types of programs will emerge, the Social Sciences Branch has begun to assess the economic and socio-cultural performance of catch share programs (and, more generally, all NE fisheries).

The Social Scientist will provide analysis and support in the study of fishery catch share systems, focusing on catch accountability. The Social Scientist will assist in developing and documenting an understanding of the relevant costs and benefits associated with catch accountability mechanisms, with a view to assessing their efficiency.

Catch accountability is of particular importance in a catch share system. Stock assessments require accurate data on fishery removals, ACLs (Annual Catch Limits) require accountability to ensure AMs are triggered only when appropriate, and inter-sector ACE trading markets depend on accurate stock-level catch estimates to allocate ACE efficiently. Current catch accountability methods focus on discard monitoring and may not adequately capture the risks associated with illegal/unmonitored landings and/or low discard estimation accuracy. The Social Scientist will help to develop a cost efficiency analysis that incorporates catch accountability strategies such as at-sea monitoring, electronic monitoring, landings obligations/full retention, and dockside monitoring.

Qualification Requirements

The successful candidate will possess:

- A Master's Degree or Ph.D, or equivalent experience in one of the social sciences, such as Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, or Marine Affairs.
- Knowledge of socio-cultural issues related to natural resources.
- Experience gathering social science information, and familiarity with using qualitative and quantitative data.
- Skill in written communication, preparation of technical reports and oral communication .
- Skill in use of statistical software, and experience in the use and analysis of large databases through tools such as STATA, R or SAS.
- Experience in working with Northeast fisheries data is highly desirable