Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Fish Internship
Cole Hoffman

Background:
• I interned for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
• I was based out of Columbus Ohio and worked out of the Groveport Field Office
• I found out about the position through a fish sampling workshop at OSU's Stone Lab up on Lake Erie where I met an OEPA Fisheries Biologist that recommended I apply

My Duties on the Job:
• Primarily was to be the netter for electrofishing
• Identifying, sorting, counting, weighing, and writing down data collected on fish after shocking
• Equipment Maintenance

OHIO EPA'S MISSION STATEMENT
"To protect the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with the environmental laws demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship."

Reasons for Stream Monitoring:
• What lives in the stream tells us about the general water quality
• More pollution intolerant organisms generally means the water is in better condition
• We can use the data collected and scientific indices that score water quality and ecosystem health

Reflection: My time with the agency was well spent and I gained many valuable experiences and knowledge that I will carry forward into my career in Fisheries Biology like sampling techniques, fish ID's, and my understanding of the biotic data as it relates to water quality.

Future Plans
Currently I plan on returning to the agency next summer for another year of the internship and plan on attending grad school in the Fall.

About me:
• Senior Forestry Fisheries and Wildlife major specializing in Fisheries and Aquatic Science
• I have a huge passion for fish, the outdoors, and educating others

My Advice if you're seeking a similar position:
• Be prepared for hard work in suboptimal conditions.
• Keep a positive attitude
• Ask questions and learn as much as you can

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