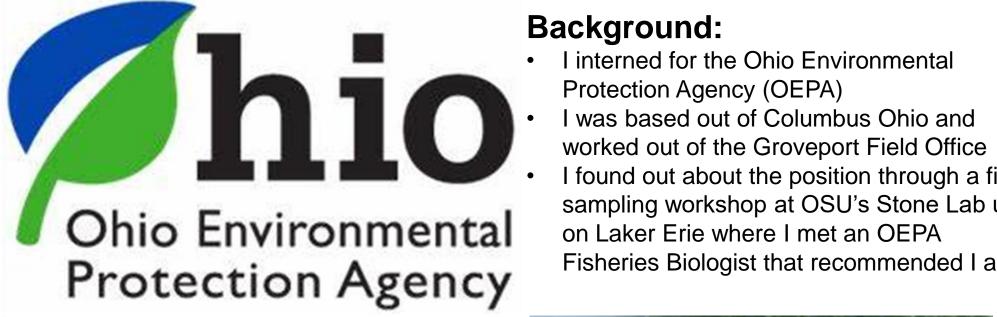
School of Environment and Natural Resources

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Fish Internship

Cole Hoffman



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





Background:

- I found out about the position through a fish sampling workshop at OSU's Stone Lab up on Laker 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







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.



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



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank my crew leader Andrew Phillips and all the other OEPA staff members for being so welcoming, patient, and willing to teach me what they know.

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

