

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 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 Laker Erie where I met an OEPA Fisheries Biologist that recommended I apply



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



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



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