National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Science Center

Organization/Agency: **NOAA Fisheries Science Center**
Supervisor/Sponsor: **Dr Cynthia Kern** Supervisor/Sponsor title: **Coastal Salmonid Ecologist**
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The National Marine Fisheries Service is dedicated to restore and rehabilitate habitats for salmonids in California with the goal of increasing populations of naturally produced strains. Current research projects include effects of stream flow and food availability on the growth, survival, and movement of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead/rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

The focus of this internship is on natural food webs in riverine systems through the study of the prey items of juvenile salmonids. Interns will assist with collection and sorting of invertebrate samples, followed by taxonomic identification via microscopes. There will be periodic opportunities for fieldwork involving capturing and tagging juvenile salmonids in various streams in Santa Cruz County.

**Prerequisites**

Training will be provided for those who have similar goals with the mission of our facility. We will provide necessary literature reviews related to the projects. Background in ecology and biology is highly recommended. The work will primarily be conducted in the laboratory with periodic opportunities for work in the field. Students must be motivated and able to work well independently. Attention to detail and prolonged focus on microscopes is essential. There is an expectation of dedicating at least 6 hours per week for at least 10 weeks. Schedule is very flexible.