



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area

Spring/Summer

SEEKING:

Volunteers to assist in looking for invasive marine species that may occur along the coast of the Boston Harbor Islands. This is part of the park's long-term effort to track biodiversity in a changing climate.

ABOUT THE PARK:

The Boston Harbor Islands national park area includes 34 islands and peninsulas situated within the large "C" shape of the Greater Boston shoreline. The islands are rich in natural and cultural resources, and are managed by a unique 13-member Partnership. Visit bostonharborislands.org for more information.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership is working alongside other coastal agencies and citizen-science volunteers to track invasive marine organisms throughout the region. Monitoring is conducted as part of the Marine Invasive Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC), coordinated by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. MIMIC program volunteers are trained to locate and identify 13 established marine invaders and 7 potential invaders on floating docks, cobble beaches, and tide pools. Project objectives are to determine the status of the invasion for established species, and to track the arrival and subsequent changes in the distribution of potential invaders.

The area searched depends on the time of low tide and the island that the MIMIC program is being run that day. Volunteers can participate as part of Stewardship Saturday programs, as part of a group volunteer event, or can be trained to collect data on their own. Participating volunteers will use species identification cards and plus detailed instruction from a park ranger about each of the different invasive species. Check <http://www.mass.gov/czm/invasives/index.htm> for additional information and the full protocol.

DUTIES/WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Responsibilities will include: accurately identifying invasive marine organisms, recording data onto field data sheets, and submitting the data to the park contact or directly entering the data online. Training is provided.

QUALIFICATIONS/PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Previous experience with field survey techniques or intertidal species identification is helpful but not required. Field work takes place in variable weather conditions and will involve boat travel and hiking slippery and variable terrain. Exposure to the elements includes risks associated with outdoor activity and walking over wet rocks. A small craft may sometimes be used to access the islands; boat rides can often be bumpy and landings are sometimes precarious; sure footing and appropriate footwear are necessary. Please be aware that because many of the islands are in remote locations, emergency response time is significantly slower than at mainland locations.

TIME COMMITMENT:

The program can be 45 minutes to 2 hours long depending on the need of the volunteers; this time does not allow for boat time or travel time.

OTHER:

All materials (datasheets, cards, etc.) will be provided. We strongly recommend wearing covered shoes that can get wet and dirty, long pants, hats, dressing in layers and bringing raingear as appropriate. Remember to also bring water; insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended.

TO APPLY OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact: Mary Raczko, Partnership Liaison, Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area
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