

## Research Zoologist (Curator of Fishes)

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) has an opening for a Research Zoologist/Curator of Fishes in the Department of Vertebrate Zoology. We seek an innovative and productive Systematic Ichthyologist to perform scientific research and professional curation in the National Fish Collection. The fish collection is the world's largest and most diverse of its kind with more than 5.5 million specimens in approximately 565,000 lots, including whole specimens preserved in alcohol, dry fish skeletons, histological collections, and specially prepared articulated skeletons stained for cartilage and bone, in addition to stainless steel tanks for oversize specimens. Genetic samples include over 43,000 tissues and DNA extracts stored within the NMNH Biorepository. The collection has the world's largest holdings of Indo-Pacific marine shore fishes and extensive coverage from freshwaters of both North and South America. The holdings comprise roughly 40% freshwater and 60% marine species.

Research in the Museum is supported by shared facilities, including the Laboratories of Analytical Biology, the Scientific Imaging center, and the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives, among others. The position offers an unparalleled opportunity for outstanding collections-based research on Recent fishes. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and expand an internationally recognized research program, making major contributions to the field of Systematic Ichthyology. They will help to oversee the growth and curation of the collections in collaboration with Collections Management staff, contribute to the Museum's exhibits and public programs, provide professional service to the Smithsonian and to their professional societies, and mentor students and early career professionals.

The Museum is dedicated to inspiring curiosity, discovery, and learning about the natural world through its unparalleled research, collections, exhibitions, and educational programs. More about the Department and its collections is available on our website (<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/vertebrate-zoology>).

This entry-level position will be filled at the IS-12 level with a starting salary of \$102,415 and excellent benefits. The position is open to all candidates eligible to work in the U.S. Proof of eligibility to work in the U.S. is not required to apply.

The official announcement will be posted and open for applications from May 12 - June 2, 2026, on <https://trustcareers.si.edu/>. Applicants must meet all qualification and eligibility requirements within 30 days of the closing date of the announcement.

Please contact the Department Chair, Helen James ([jamesh@si.edu](mailto:jamesh@si.edu)), with any questions.

The Smithsonian Institution is an **Equal Opportunity Employer**. To review The Smithsonian's EEO program information, please click the following: <https://www.si.edu/oeo>.