Get to know a King County

Marine Scientist

We apply scientific insight to help improve, understand, and protect Puget Sound.

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

The King County marine team works in a number of programs to monitor water, sediment, and plankton from Puget Sound. Our team works with the King County Environmental Lab and our research vessel, the R/V SoundGuardian, to collect samples. Each monitoring activity helps us paint a picture of Puget Sound health and how it has changed over time. We pride ourselves on our long-term, high-quality, public datasets.

A typical week for a Marine Scientist might include:

Data Analysis (2-3 days)

Process, review and summarize data from the marine environment.

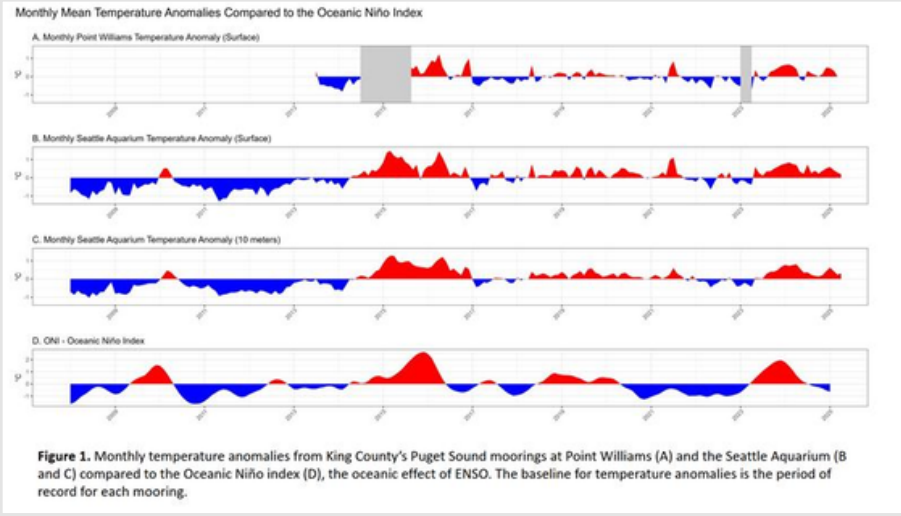

Figure 1. Monthly temperature anomalies from King County's Puget Sound moorings at Point Williams (A) and the Seattle Aquarium (B and C) compared to the Oceanic Niño index (D), the oceanic effect of ENSO. The baseline for temperature anomalies is the period of record for each mooring.

Research and Communications (2-3 days)

Write study plans, reports, and publications. Communicate data and findings with workgroups and partners. Read and interpret reports and publications from other institutions.

Becoming a King County

Marine Scientist

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Areas of study

Marine Scientists often have degrees in fields like:

- Environmental Science with marine-focused coursework
- Marine Biology
- Oceanography

Compensation

Early career King County Marine Scientists typically earn **$42-$53 per hour**.

Benefits for King County employees may include medical, dental, and vision, plus ways to save for the future through pension and savings plans.

How to stand out

Technical skills:

- Knowledge of estuarine processes
- Understanding of marine environment and data collection methods, including:
  - Moorings or other autonomous systems, like Seagliders or Argo floats
  - Plankton and sediment
  - CTD (conductivity, temperature, and depth)
- Statistics and data analysis
- Data quality control

Software:

- R, Python, or Matlab for data analysis and visualization
- Data dashboards like Tableau

Learn more about our work:
kingcounty.gov/EnvironmentalScience

Search these terms to see similar jobs: marine, water quality, oceanography, Puget Sound

Questions? Email us!
science@kingcounty.gov