

Aquatic Ecosystem Researcher Co-op

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) is a commercial not-for-profit organization committed to the stewardship and sustainable growth of Victoria's working harbour. GVHA owns and operates 11 waterfront properties, including the Breakwater District at Ogden Point with its deep-water terminal, the Lower Causeway, Fisherman's Wharf, Ship Point Pier, and four Inner Harbour marinas. We have a co-op position for the fall 2026.

Purpose of the Position

GVHA has been part of the Green Marine program since 2011. This voluntary certification program helps participants to improve their environmental performance beyond regulations. Green Marine recognizes nine indicators for ports, one of these is 'Aquatic Ecosystems'. Under GVHA's Sustainability Plan, the goal for this year is to benchmark the status of aquatic ecosystems in GVHA's immediate zone of influence. Reporting to the Manager, Sustainability, this role will collaborate closely with the Sustainability Manager, other GVHA team members and external partners.

Specific Accountabilities

- Set up a research project, including formulating research questions and methodology selection.
- Evaluate current literature overview in Green Marine Smart Guide and update if needed.
- Identify the status of aquatic ecosystems in GVHA's immediate zone of influence, based on Green Marine Annex 8-A.
- Provide recommendations on measures that can improve the aquatic ecosystems.
- Provide next steps for GVHA to move toward Level 4 out of 5 for the Aquatic Ecosystems indicator.
- Present findings and recommendations in a comprehensive report.
- Assist the Sustainability Manager on smaller projects.
- Represents GVHA in a professional and courteous manner.

Working Conditions

- 37.5 hours a week from September 8 to December 11, 2026.
- Open office environment.
- Site visits to GVHA properties around the Victoria harbour.
- Evenings and/or weekends may be required due to operational requirements and/or to participate in events.
- Exposure to various weather and operating conditions.

Experience and Education

- Preference for a 4th+ year undergraduate or graduate level student.
- College/University student in (Marine) Biology, Ecology, Earth & Ocean Sciences, Marine Science or any related field of study.
- Experience in doing desk research.
- The ability to efficiently search for and identify credible, peer-reviewed, or primary sources.
- Can synthesize information from multiple sources to form a single, cohesive new insight.
- Proficient with computers and all MS Office applications.
- Experience with interviewing for research to gather information and data.

Personal Attributes

- Excellent communication skills.
- Can provide clear and concise information.
- Can work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to take initiative.
- Ability to study and apply different research methods.
- Interested in learning about new topics.

What We Offer

- Training and Development: opportunities for professional development in the field of environmental sustainability.
- Supportive Work Environment: a workplace culture that values diversity, inclusivity, and respect for Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- Compensation: \$23.00/hour plus 4% vacation pay.
- Location: GVHA's main office in downtown Victoria.

How To Apply

Apply online at <https://gvha.ca/careers/opportunities/>

Applications will be accepted until July 12, 2026.

GVHA operates on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən People, the Songhees Nation and Xʷsepsəm (Esquimalt) Nation. GVHA is dedicated to encouraging a supportive and inclusive culture amongst our workforce. Our goal is to ensure all employees are given equal opportunity, and that GVHA is representative of all sections of society.

If you need accommodations for any part of the application and recruiting process, please contact hr@gvha.ca. Any personal information provided will be kept confidential.