

## **Independent Practice for Registered Biology Technologists**

The College of Applied Biology Bylaws are effective as of February 5, 2021. This document replaces Schedule 5 – of the College Rules.

The College Applied Biology is establishing a Registered Biology Technologist (RBTech) and Applied Biology Technician (ABT) Scope of Practice Task Force this year to capture and further define and these two designations' practice.

### **Overview**

Registered Professional Biologists and RBTechs have independent practice. "Independent Practice" is defined as activities/documentation not requiring the supervision or further sign off by an RPBio, and for which the RBTech may assume full, autonomous accountability.

### **Principles**

Accountability is usually indicated by sign off and/or sealing of documentation. Signing off is a formal acceptance of responsibility for work completed within an individual's scope of practice and expertise and is encouraged under the College Bylaws Part 6 Use of Professional Seal and Signature. However, any activities/work undertaken by a College registrant is subject to the same standard of accountability whether or not that work is formally signed off by the registrant doing the work.

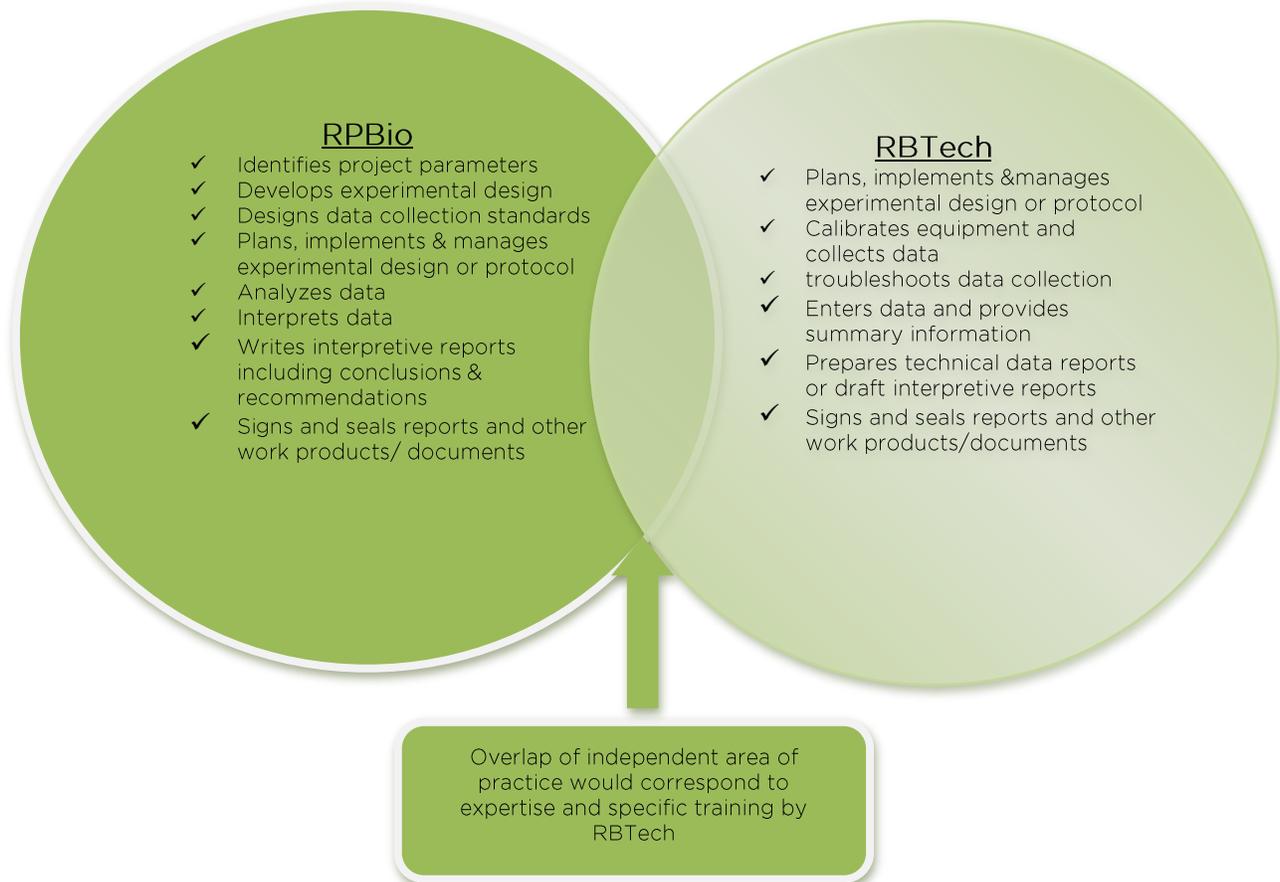
On occasion, regulatory requirements other than the College of Applied Biology Bylaws or an employer policy, may dictate that an RPBio take responsibility for and sign off certain projects. Nevertheless, depending on the nature of the task an RBTech may have authority pursuant to this schedule to do the work, recommend the signoff, and accept responsibility for that recommendation.

The role of an RBTech reflects the size, analytical complexity and interpretative consequences of the task, as well as the RBTech's personal experience and expertise. RBTech functions and accountability are generally more narrowly defined and focused than those of RPBios. There is an emphasis operating within established technical parameters, guidelines and protocols.

In contrast, the functions and accountabilities of an RPBio encompass the full depth and breadth of applied biology, including and going beyond those that may be performed and assumed by an RBTech. They are generally more broadly defined and may address full-scale habitat and species issues including the design of complex assessments and management regimes to achieve long-term outcomes. They often involve full management time frames, integration and interpretation of data from a variety of sources and drawing complex conclusions or prescriptions on which someone will rely.

In all instances College registrants must practice within the limits of their personal competence, request qualified help when needed, and comply with all other requirements of the College of Applied Biology Bylaws and the *Professional Governance Act*, as well any other statutory requirements (e.g., other legislation, permit requirements, health and safety, etc.).

The generalized diagram below demonstrates the practice relationship between an RPBio and an RBTech.



### Specific Independent Practice for RBTechs

RBTech Independent Practice includes but is not limited to:

- Plan, implement and manage biological projects, assessments and studies.
- Install, maintain, calibrate and implement the use of field and laboratory equipment.
- Conduct field, laboratory, or other forms of data collection, inventory and monitoring of biological data and resources.
- The collection, identification, classification and appropriate handling, storing and disposal of biological specimens.
- Enter, compile, sort and analyze data in accordance with statistical (i.e. numeracy) competency
- Prepare work products including but not limited to technical reports and assessments summarizing methodologies, results and recommendations based on data analysis. Such as wildlife and fisheries habitat assessments, Riparian Areas Protection Regulations (RARP) Assessment Reports, Environmental Site Assessments.
- Sign off and seal as an independent applied biology professional on work and work products.
- Collaborate on biological matters with other natural resource and non-natural resource professionals.
- Supervise others carrying out the above tasks.