JOB DESCRIPTION

Postdoctoral Research Opportunity

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Researcher
Reporting to:	Dr Deirdre Brophy
Location:	Marine Institute Catchment Research Facility, Furnace, Newport, Co Mayo
Duration:	36 Month Fixed Term Contract
Funding:	This project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. PBA/FS/16/03) is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.
Project Title:	Unlocking the archive: using scale and otolith chronologies to resolve climate Impacts.

Description:

An opportunity has arisen for highly motivated researcher to be part of an exciting partnership between the Marine and Freshwater Research Centre (MFRC) at GMIT and the Marine Institute (MI).

Archived collections of fish hard parts (scales, otoliths, skeletal structures) provide sustained and detailed long-term records of individual growth, phenology and migration. Coupling these data with environmental time-series can offer remarkable insight into how fish populations respond to environmental change. The MI's Catchment Research Facility at Newport Co Mayo holds valuable multi-decadal collections of scales and otoliths obtained as part of national stock assessment, monitoring and research programmes for salmonids and eels. The facility also houses over 55 years of detailed environmental data for the Burrishoole catchment. This project aims to develop statistical capacity and methodologies that will enable the interrogation of these valuable biological and environmental time series. Catchment and oceanic scale environmental data will be combined with detailed records of fish movements to and from the catchment, available fish stock assessment data and growth time series to investigate how diadromous fish respond to environmental variability and climate change impacts.

Key Responsibilities:

- Work with the project team to develop capacity in statistical analysis of biological and environmental time series at the Newport Research Facility through collaboration, internal workshops/seminars etc.
- Develop statistical approaches for analysis of biological and environmental time series
- Investigate temporal changes in biological responses (fish growth, phenology, migration) in relation to environmental drivers
- Lead scientific peer reviewed publications and conference presentations communicating the research outputs from the project
- Liaise with appropriate expert groups to communicate project outputs and place them within the context of fisheries management and conservation priorities
- The successful candidate will be based at the Marine Institute's catchment research facility at Newport, Co. Mayo

Requirements/Background:
Candidates should have a minimum of a PhD or equivalent (4 years fulltime research after primary degree) research experience (including industrial R&D). The ideal candidate will have a background in quantitative ecology and time series analysis with experience of working with large datasets. Strong statistical modelling skills as well as statistical programming skills (e.g., R, Python, Matlab) are required. Some familiarity with fish growth and population dynamics would be an advantage. They will be highly motivated with a strong publication record, commensurate with their career stage and a demonstrated ability to work as part of a dynamic team.

Conditions:

- Salary: IUA level 2 point 1: €36,488 with annual increments
- Pension contribution @ 20% of salary.
  ***The appointee will not become a member of the Public Service pension scheme and the pension contribution will only be paid where an approved PRSA is established by the appointee**).

Further information on the position may be obtained from Dr Deirdre Brophy (deirdre.brophy@gmit.ie).

Interested applicants should submit a detailed Curriculum Vitae including a personal statement as to how you meet the requirements of the post described to hr@gmit.ie

The Human Resources Department
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
Dublin Road
Galway
Ireland.

Telephone No. + 353 91 742766/742767

Latest date for receipt of completed application is: 12 noon on Friday, 15th September 2017.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place on**: Wednesday, 27th September 2017.**

Please note:
Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
Candidates must hold a valid work permit to work in Ireland.
Garda Vetting will apply.

The Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with a disability.

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras trí Ghaeilge.