

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	19/107579
Closing Date:	Monday 1 July 2019
Salary:	£27,831 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 9 July 2019
Duration:	Available for 41 months or until 31 December 2022

JOB PURPOSE:

A unique and exciting opportunity in an inter-regional, multi-institutional setting; we are seeking a candidate to work on a multi-species marine telemetry and population genetics project combining studies on flapper skate and basking shark around Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

As part of the ambitious EU SeaMonitor project, the Policy and Outreach Research Assistant within this team will liaise with skate fishermen through the study area and engage them in tagging and genetic sampling programme. Additionally, they will take a lead role in managing a Flapper Skate scientific working group. For basking sharks there will be a strong element of community outreach including the development of online tools in collaboration with the lead partner, The Loughs Agency. Working closely with project partners and other members of the team, the post holder will act in a scientific and policy advisory capacity. The post holder will also be required to provide specialist advice on issues to the Project Board and other partners as appropriate.

This post is full time until Dec 2022.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Supply Loughs Agency with relevant and adequate information underpinning skate and basking shark white papers (i.e. policy recommendations).
2. Engage with key stakeholders and general public to promote basking shark and flapper skate conservation, and highlight the work of the SeaMonitor project.
3. Assist with the preparation of project quarterly reports and associated administration.
4. Assist in the organisation of project workshops and maintain subsequent communication within resulting working groups.
5. Assist with development of basking shark advisory 'app' (or equivalent online tools).
6. Ensure high standards are maintained in the quality of work produced and in the efficient operation of equipment to meet SeaMonitor project deliverables.
7. Provide assistance to broader QUB team with fieldwork.
8. Prepare and distribute materials for skate genetics and tagging programme.
9. Collate and maintain database of skate and basking shark samples.
10. Carry out analysis of information, data and/or calculations identifying issues which require to be addressed.
11. Maintain records and oversee budget accounting of materials, stocks and equipment to monitor and control finances.
12. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably be requested by Supervisor.
13. Monitor and maintain a safe working environment in accordance with Health and Safety procedures.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plans own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Take delegated responsibility for budgets/resources by following established procedures.
2. On the job training of students and staff in use of equipment and techniques in own area of expertise.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Daily contact with Supervisor, work colleagues, University staff and students.
2. Regular liaison with project partners.
3. Close working relationship with lead partners, Loughs Agency.
4. Develop and maintain a network of skate fishers (linked to acquisition of genetic samples).
5. Maintain communication channels between members of the skate working group.
6. Help foster links with NGO's (e.g. Ulster Wildlife & WWF) Government Agencies and kin projects (e.g. COMPASS, MARPAMM).

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in a relevant subject area.
2. At least 1 year recent & relevant experience.
3. Experience in delivery of marine biodiversity /conservation training courses.
4. Experience in developing and delivering outreach programmes regionally.
5. Experience in developing conservation/management plans.
6. Experience of project management and ability to coordinate partners and/or coalitions.
7. In depth understanding of UK, ROI and EU environmental directives relating to marine conservation.
8. Well-developed understanding of relevant workplace regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements.
9. Proven track record of managing budgets/resources.
10. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
11. Training of staff and students in use of equipment and techniques in area of expertise.
12. Track record of effective stakeholder interaction.
13. Experience/skills in public outreach and broad dissemination of research using traditional and social media.
14. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
15. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
16. Willing to travel to meet the needs of the post.
17. Access to transport or ability to meet mobility requirements for the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Hold or about to obtain a post-graduate qualification or higher in a relevant subject area.
2. Experience working on regional-scale marine conservation projects.
3. Experience of working with/for environmental NGOs/government bodies on elasmobranch related projects.
4. Hands on field experience with elasmobranchs (e.g. mark-recapture programmes).
5. Experience working on EU funded projects.
6. Experience of Producing project reports and/or policy recommendations.
7. Experience presenting at national/international conferences.