Funded MSc opportunity on Newfoundland capelin ecology

Capelin is the keystone forage fish species in the Newfoundland and Labrador shelf ecosystem. The capelin stock collapsed in 1990-91 with no recovery in three decades (Buren et al. 2019). While no stock-recruitment relationship has been found for capelin, larval abundance (Murphy et al. 2018) has been related to year-class strength. Identifying the drivers of larval survival (i.e. environment, predation) is vital to understanding and forecasting capelin recruitment dynamics.

We seek a highly motivated MSc student to lead a project on the ecology of capelin in Newfoundland waters. This study will use a variety of data sources and analytical approaches to investigate the top-down (predator) drivers of capelin larval survival.

This MSc project is co-supervised by Dr. Hannah Murphy (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. John’s, NL) and Dr. Maxime Geoffroy (Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland). The project will be based in St. John’s, NL.

Interested candidates must meet the prerequisites for admission to the Marine Institute’s MSc program in Fisheries Science and Technology. To apply, please send a cover letter, CV, and copies of university transcripts by email to both Dr. Hannah Murphy (Hannah.Murphy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) and Dr. Maxime Geoffroy (Maxime.Geoffroy@mi.mun.ca) by 15 April, 2022 for a September 2022 start.