



Fully Funded PhD opportunity in Fisheries Ecology

Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*) supports the most valuable groundfish fishery per-unit-weight in Atlantic Canada. Despite high socio-economic importance for 5 Canadian provinces, the spatial ecology and stock structure of the species is poorly understood making the fishery vulnerable to changing ecosystem conditions and mismanagement. Technological advances in fish tracking technology have transformed our ability to observe marine fish behaviour and to learn about their spatial ecology. However, knowledge gained from fish tracking technologies are seldom incorporated into stock assessment and management.

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated PhD student to lead a project on the spatial ecology, assessment, and management of Atlantic halibut. Using an exceptionally rich dataset from more than 100 pop-up satellite tags (and further deployments), the candidate will develop quantitative approaches to integrate movement data into stock assessment models and species distribution models. The candidate is anticipated to participate in field tagging operations and to contribute to Fisheries and Oceans Canada stock assessment meetings. Fieldwork will occur aboard research and fishing vessels across Atlantic Canada.

Location. The candidate will be registered in the PhD program in Fisheries Sciences offered at the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Canada (<https://www.mi.mun.ca/programsandcourses/programs/fisheriessciencedoctorofphilosophyphd/>).

Co-supervisors. Arnault Le Bris and Jonathan Fisher (Marine Institute – Memorial University)

Collaborative environment. Dominique Robert (Université du Québec à Rimouski), Brendan Wringe and Nell den Heyer (Bedford Institute of Oceanography). The position is part of the Ocean Frontier Institute and benefits from a large network of ocean researchers (<https://oceanfrontierinstitute.com/research/spatial-dynamics-of-valued-atlantic-groundfish>).

Requirements.

- M.Sc. degree in Fisheries Ecology, Statistics, Marine Ecology, Oceanography, or related discipline from a recognized institution.
- Demonstrated quantitative skills and experience with R, Matlab, or Python.
- Ability to work aboard fishing vessels.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.

Start date. September, 2019.

Application. Please send a cover letter, curriculum vitae and university transcripts (official or unofficial) by email to both Dr. Jonathan Fisher jonathan.fisher@mi.mun.ca and Dr. Arnault Le Bris, arnault.lebris@mi.mun.ca. Application deadline is May 15th, 2019.