Fully funded MSc opportunity to work on marine habitat mapping

Applications are invited for an MSc position in marine habitat mapping funded in part through Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and based at the Department of Ocean Sciences (https://www.mun.ca/osc/) of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) in St. John’s, NL, Canada.

The MSc student will contribute towards a research program lead by Dr. Patrick Gagnon on mapping the distribution and abundance of key marine benthic habitats in coastal Newfoundland and Labrador. The research program involves a literature review, stakeholder interviews, field work (shore- and boat-based), classification of seabed imagery to be acquired with a variety of remote sensors, and spatial data analysis in order to create comprehensive databases and maps of kelp, rhodolith, and potentially eelgrass habitats for the province.

Requirements for the position include:

• B.Sc. in marine biology/ecology or a related discipline (e.g. oceanography, geography)

Desirable skills/experience for the position include:

• Knowledge of geographic information system (ideally ArcGIS) and basic image analysis techniques
• Marine remote sensing (primarily optical), spatial data analysis, creation of geospatial databases
• Experience with camera drones, echosounding, and the creation of multimedia content

The ideal candidate will also:

• be a certified and capable scuba diver and/or boat tender, with strong interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills.

The student will work under the supervision of Drs. Patrick Gagnon and Anaide W. Aued from the Department of Ocean Sciences and in close collaboration with government and industry partners and other graduate and undergraduate students involved in the research program.

The Department of Ocean Sciences of MUN is located at the Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) in Logy Bay. The OSC is a major facility for marine research on the Atlantic coast and is one of Canada’s largest marine laboratories. By virtue of its location, the department provides Canadian and international scientists and students access to the flora and fauna of the northwest Atlantic Ocean and is uniquely situated for shore-based studies of the cold-ocean processes and subarctic, Arctic and deep-sea organisms. A strategic goal of the department is to carry out world-class research that focuses on organisms and processes in the cold ocean and to provide education and training opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Memorial University is Atlantic Canada’s largest university. By offering diverse undergraduate and graduate programs to 18,000 students (http://www.mun.ca/), it provides a distinctive stimulating environment for learning in the Province’s capital city, St. John’s which is a safe, friendly city with great historic charm, a vibrant cultural life and easy access to a wide range of outdoor activities. Memorial plays an integral role in the education and cultural life of Newfoundland and Labrador. NL has strong cultural, social and economic linkages to the oceans and
fisheries. Therefore, there is great interest, support and engagement in marine research by the public, industry, NGOs and government departments across the province.

Your application package will include 1) a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications for the position; 2) a detailed curriculum vitae with the names and contact information of three references; and 3) a copy of your most recent university transcripts (official or unofficial).

Please send the application package to Dr. Patrick Gagnon via email at pgagnon@mun.ca

Start Date: **6 January, 2021** (start of the winter semester at MUN)

We will accept candidatures until a suitable candidate is identified.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Memorial University is strongly committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, including women, members of visible minorities, Aboriginal persons, members of sexual minorities and persons with disabilities.