2-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship Opportunity

Building collaborative interdisciplinary research infrastructure in Atlantic Canada's lobster fisheries

Call for Applications

The Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) (https://oceanfrontierinstitute.com/) is a multi-institutional research partnership led by Dalhousie University, Memorial University and the University of Prince Edward Island. OFI is funding a new major research project based at Memorial University entitled *Future Ocean and Coastal Infrastructures (FOCI): Designing Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Coastal Communities and Industries in Atlantic Canada*, within which the sub-project "Building collaborative interdisciplinary research infrastructure in Atlantic Canada's lobster fisheries" is supporting research on lobster fisheries under conditions of climate change.

This project on eastern Canada's lobster fisheries is building on previous research by the Canadian Fisheries Research Network (CFRN), and will be done in partnership with the Lobster Node Inc., which represents the majority of lobster fishing associations in the eastern Canada. The project will build collaborative interdisciplinary research capacity for Canada's lobster fisheries, the most economically valuable fishery in the country and to hundreds of coastal communities. Climate change is expected to create significant livelihood and economic dependency challenges in some regions, and new opportunities in others.

Applications are invited for a Post-Doctoral Fellow position to support the development of industry-led collaborative research infrastructure that will gather and integrate biological data on lobster with new data on social and economic performance of the fishery into a sustainability framework that can be used to inform adaptive decision-making. The fellow will use a multi-methods approach to help create and test a pilot methodology, including a new survey tool for social science monitoring, which will involve collecting data such as costs, earnings and expenditures of lobster harvesters so as to improve our understanding of the generation and distribution of socioeconomic benefits to individuals, communities, regions, and provinces across eastern Canada. Working in collaboration with Lobster Node Inc. and a team of researchers, the fellow will conduct an environmental scan to develop a broad analysis of the socio-economic profile of eastern Canada's lobster fisheries and to identify variations across fleets, regions and communities. This profile will be used to facilitate the design of a phone survey aimed at harvesters (costs, earnings and expenditures). Drawing on recent work tracing the benefits of fishing into postharvest infrastructures, the survey will track benefits into post-harvesting economic activities in coastal communities and infrastructures and services, identifying economic ripple effects in areas such as food retail, shipyards, fuel and supply services, processing plant infrastructure and employment. The development and testing of this innovative methodology for monitoring the generation and distribution of socio-economic benefits from Canada's lobster fishery will lay the foundation for longer-term studies.

The Post-Doctoral Fellow will thus:

- Conduct an environmental scan of available literature, documents and data on the socio-economic impacts of Canada's lobster fisheries
- Apply for research ethics approval for research involving human participants
- Design key informant interview and survey instruments through two workshops
- Implement key informant interviews and survey(s) instruments
- Co-advise a Masters student's research within the project
- Write and revise manuscripts for workshop/conference presentations and publications
- Assist with overall project management and collaborate with partners on data analysis and dissemination of findings

The successful applicant will have completed all requirements for a doctorate or equivalent degree in any of a wide range of social science disciplines (e.g. fisheries or marine studies, sociology, anthropology, geography) and fields of study (e.g. ecological economics, political economy, political ecology). Experience conducting surveys and interview-based qualitative research is required. While a background in fisheries research and/or working with fish harvester organizations will be an asset, applications from candidates with a strong background in social sciences approaches in other sectors and fields will be considered. Other assets include experience and/or knowledge of community-based resource management and ocean/coastal issues; excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work with a variety of individuals and groups; a high level of motivation and organization, and; experience preparing research ethics review applications.

This is a two-year position at a rate of a minimum CAD$49,000/year for 2 years (plus benefits) and includes access to additional funding for field research and conference-related travel (subject to final funding approval).

The preferred start date for this position is September 2020, though an earlier start date will be considered. Review of applications will start on June 30, 2020 and continue until the position is filled.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter explaining their fit to this position, a current CV, statement of relevant research interests and activities (2-page maximum), and contact information for three referees electronically to Dr. Paul Foley, Environmental Policy Institute, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University (pfoley@grenfell.mun.ca) and Dr. Melanie Wiber, Department of Anthropology, University of New Brunswick (wiber@unb.ca). We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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.