

PhD Opportunity in Larval Fish Ecology

Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) is a critical species in Canadian marine ecosystems. Ecologically, it provides forage for marine fish, birds, and mammals. In spite of its importance, details of its population biology and dynamics are not well known. The goal of this project is to investigate the environmental drivers underlying capelin larval survival. This will develop a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying capelin recruitment and allow the development a recruitment index and ultimately a forecast model of capelin biomass. Work will be based out Dr. Gail Davoren's lab in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB) and will be jointly supervised with Dr. Hannah Murphy at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (St. John's, NL). Research will be primarily based on capelin spawning beaches and small vessels working on the northeast coast of Newfoundland. Research will involve monitoring potential spawning sites for capelin presence, sampling capelin eggs, larvae, larval predators and environmental parameters. Successful candidates will join a dynamic team of researchers in both the field and lab **starting as early as May, 2018**. This project offers training in multiple labs within the university along with Canadian government laboratory environments.

Qualifications: MSc or equivalent in Biological Sciences, and strong interests in marine ecology and ichthyology.

Support: The PhD student will have full personal support for 4 years through the University of Manitoba.

How to apply: Please send a cover letter outlining your interest in this project along with your CV and unofficial transcripts to gail.davoren@umanitoba.ca by January 12, 2018.