

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Temporary Laboratory Analyst – Phytoplankton Laboratory (National Monitoring Program)
Grade & Contract	Laboratory Analyst – Temporary Specified Purpose Contract – Career Break cover for up to 12 months until the 15th of April 2024
Service Group	Marine Environment and Food Safety Services
Location	Marine Institute HQ, Oranmore, Co. Galway (noting that we are currently considering & drafting our blended working policy which may apply to this role)

Who will you Work With and What Will The Role Involve?

The Phytoplankton Laboratory Analyst will work as part of the Shellfish Safety Unit Team. This team is responsible for a wide range of monitoring and analytical services to clients including the Government, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the Shellfish Industry and the EU. The Shellfish Safety Unit is the National Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins in Ireland. The unit is part of the Marine Environment & Food Safety Services, which operates a number of programmes, and has engaged in an active Laboratory Accreditation programme.

The Phytoplankton Laboratory Analyst will primarily be responsible for undertaking analysis of phytoplankton samples. The analysis involves using light microscopy for the identification and enumeration of the full community of species in marine water samples from shellfish production areas, as part of the National Monitoring of Biotoxin in shellfish Programme. The analysis of samples may also contribute to wider monitoring programmes and relevant research initiatives. The role involves a high degree of taxonomic skill and the candidate will be expected to demonstrate a good understanding and knowledge in this area. The candidate will also need to demonstrate a good understanding of ISO17025. All work will be done within the quality system operated within the Marine Institute.

The work will primarily be carried out in the Marine Institute’s facilities in Oranmore Co. Galway. Assignments may also be carried out at other Marine Institute locations or in the field from time to time.

What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

This role requires a flexible approach to work and the possession of good inter-personal skills for working in a shared laboratory and office environment. Familiarity with the National Monitoring

Programmes for Biotoxin and Phytoplankton is a necessary attribute for this position. It would also be necessary for the candidate to have a full driving license and experience working in the field and at sea (on small boats or research vessels) as may be required. The working environment will involve many methods that are accredited to ISO 17025.

The candidate will be responsible for carrying out a range of duties consistent with the work described above. These include:

- Analysis of Marine water samples for identification and enumeration of phytoplankton species
- Input data into the Marine Institute databases and reporting on Phytoplankton results to management staff within the institute
- To contribute to all aspects of the MEFSS quality system as required, for example undertaking of internal audits and participation in various quality control groups.
- To contribute to assessment of data and assist with preparation of reports as required to update monitoring databases and assist with ad-hoc data reporting requirements
- Successful participation in inter-comparison exercises
- Liaise with stakeholders in the shellfish industry such as shellfish farmers, SFPA, FSAI and EPA on sample collection, preservation methods and preparation of sampling kits.
- Participation as required at meetings both internal and external and preparation of synopses of Phytoplankton monitoring for internal and external use.
- Assist in research projects in the area of phytoplankton monitoring and analysis, undertaken by the phytoplankton lab.
- Any other duties relevant to the post, grade and role as required from time to time.

What do You Need to Have Done to Apply for This role? (Education, Professional or Technical Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes, Experience and Training)

Essential / Important:

- A minimum of a third level Certificate in a relevant scientific subject.
- Knowledge of phytoplankton taxonomy and ecology
- Experience in the use of standard office software packages.
- Willingness and ability to work at sea on board research vessels and field sampling visits as required
- The ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- The ability to manage time effectively and work to deadlines.
- Understanding of the requirements of an ISO17025 accredited laboratory environment
- A full driving licence.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- Demonstrated relevant work experience in a laboratory environment.
- Previous experience in a similar role

- Proven scientific and technical report writing skills
- Knowledge of instrument calibration and instrument troubleshooting
- Experience in field sampling for environmental monitoring programmes.
- Knowledge of marine/environmental science and plankton dynamics.
- Relevant analytical experience in the field of phytoplankton, including taxonomy, culturing, use of inverted light, fluorescence and electron microscopes.
- Knowledge of molecular methods such as qPCR.
- Experience of participation in laboratory inter-comparison exercises.
- Experience working in a ISO 17025 Quality System

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

- Dynamic and reliable.
- Self-sufficiency, while being a good team player.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- The ability to work to deadlines and manage time effectively.
- Experience in collaborating with scientists and members of a technical team.
- Ability to work on own initiative and progress work independently.
- Analytical approach to problem solving.
- Enthusiastic approach to the area of phytoplankton taxonomy and related research

Description of Service Group: Marine Environment & Food Safety Services – The Wider Team – The Wider Team

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services provide government agencies, industry and other clients with food safety, environmental and fish health scientific services, primarily through the implementation of monitoring programmes and research programmes and the provision of advice. The successful candidate will primarily be based within the MI Marine Chemistry Section.

Who Will You Report to / Who will Manage and Support You?:

The successful candidate will report to the Scientific and Technical Officer in Phytoplankton Unit and the Shellfish Safety Unit Section Manager.

What we offer

We value our staff, and we value their contribution to the work of the Marine Institute. In return for this, we provide benefits that promote a healthy work-life balance and which we hope will help them to develop professionally. These include personal and career development, work/life balance policies, an employee assistance programme, “Bike to Work” Scheme, staff medicals and annual flu vaccination.

Contacts:

Within the Marine Institute:

WFD Team Leader and WFD Team, Chemistry Data manager, Senior Chemist, Director MEFS, Section manager – Phytoplankton, Chemistry Section and Management Team & Staff of MEFS;

External:

Regular liaison with Government Departments including DHLGH, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and; scientists and officials from other government organisations, in particular the EPA.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Laboratory Analyst approved Salary Scale which runs from €37,009-€62,105 on a full time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme unless you are currently or have worked in the Public Sector in the past 6 months or are a member of another Public Sector Scheme

Annual Leave:

The annual leave entitlement for a Laboratory Analyst is 23 working days per annum prorated to reflect time worked. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays. All leave must be approved by your manager or their authorised representative; in advance of being taken and in line with Marine Institute leave policies.

Duration of Contract:

This temporary specified purpose contract of employment, providing career break cover for up to 12 months. You will be on probation for the first 6 months of this contract.

Who is the Marine Institute?

The Marine Institute is a non-commercial semi-state body, which was formally established by statute (Marine Institute Act, 1991) in October 1992.

Under the Act, the Marine Institute was given the responsibility:

“to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the marine environment”.

The Marine Institute is the national agency responsible for marine research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI). The Marine Institute seeks to assess and realise the economic potential of Ireland’s 220-million-acre marine resource; promote the sustainable development of

marine industry through strategic funding programmes and scientific services; and safeguard the marine environment through research and environmental monitoring. The Institute works in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and a network of other Government Departments, semi-state agencies, national and international marine partners.

Our vision - The Marine Institute, as a global leader in ocean knowledge, empowering Ireland and its people to safeguard and harness ocean wealth.

Our Mission - The Marine Institute, provides government, public agencies and the maritime industry with a range of scientific, advisory and economic development services that inform policy-making, regulation and the sustainable management and growth of Ireland's marine resources. The Institute undertakes, coordinates and promotes marine research and development, which is essential to achieving a sustainable ocean economy, protecting ecosystems and inspiring a shared understanding of the ocean.

In order to achieve this vision, the MI have six service areas; (1) Ocean, Climate and Information Services, (2) Marine Environment & Food Safety Services, (3) Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, (4) Irish Maritime Development Office, (5) *Policy, Innovation and Research Services* and (6) Corporate Services.

The Marine Institute 5 Year Strategic Plan (2018 to 2022) is available [here](#)

How to Apply:

A C.V. and letter of application, summarising experience and skill set applicable to the position should be emailed to recruitment@marine.ie or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **MEFS/LA/PHYTO-CB/Apr23**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon 5th of May 2023**. Unfortunately, late applications cannot be accepted.

Use of Data - all personal data and the information submitted for this application will be used solely for the purpose of this campaign, after which it will be deleted in line with our General Data Protection Regulation Policy and data retention schedule. All information will be treated with the strictest confidence and accessed only by those involved directly in the campaign.

The Marine Institute is an organisation that champions Diversity, Inclusion & Equality for all. We encourage and welcome applications from anyone interested in this role.

**Please do advise if there are any special accommodations required for the recruitment process.
We are here to help you access opportunities with us.**