

## Marine Institute Job Description

<b>Position</b>	<b>INFOMAR Scientific &amp; Technical Officer (STO) Value Added Exploitation Seabed &amp; Habitat Mapping Service Development</b>
<b>Grade &amp; Contract</b>	<b>Temporary specified purpose contract for a maximum duration up to December 31st 2026 – INFOMAR Funded - DECC</b>
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Ocean, Climate &amp; Information Services (OCIS) Advanced Mapping Services (AMS)</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Marine Institute, Rinville, Co. Galway The Marine Institute has a Blended Working Policy in Place</b>

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

The successful candidate will be based at the Marine Institute (MI) HQ in Oranmore and will report directly to the Advanced Mapping Services (AMS) Team Leader(s), Section Manager or designated alternative. AMS sits within the Ocean Climate and Information Services (OCIS) group and is responsible for MI's role in Ireland's national seabed mapping programme, INFOMAR, which is jointly managed by partners Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and the MI, and funded by Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications. The role will support *strategic value added aspects* of INFOMAR, including Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) development, Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation, sustainable fisheries management, Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Habitats Directive reporting, and research and innovation in support of these areas. The role will also focus on INFOMAR product development, outreach & education and capacity build activities, to increase the impact of INFOMAR service provision, and expand cross departmental co-operation and project development within the MI, and externally.

INFOMAR is an integrated programme and will involve elements of hydrographic surveying, oceanographic, biological and sediment sampling, ROV Operations, geophysical survey and habitat mapping. The individual will work towards optimising the downstream value of data outputs and associated products through the Value Added Exploitation programme of INFOMAR. This will contribute towards maritime heritage, MSP, MSFD, ORE and Habitats Directive reporting and monitoring, as well as inputting to downstream digital web-mapping and data delivery services in turn supporting development of marine resource management plans. The STO will also support relevant seabed mapping and data analytics R&D initiatives undertaken by the team. INFOMAR supports delivery of EMODnet Seabed Habitats and H2020 Mission Atlantic through management of work packages, and project management of EMFAF SeaShelf project.

This will augment existing skill sets, underpin operational programme needs, and support future and ongoing R&D initiatives.

### What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

- Support the Advanced Mapping Services (AMS) team in all aspects of INFOMAR and related seabed and habitat mapping services, with an emphasis on Value Added Exploitation and strategic development of products and services.
- Input to scoping, assessment and delivery of future INFOMAR stakeholder requirements.
- Support seagoing operational activities as required, particularly with a focus on supporting the development of new data, products and services.
- Use and development of GIS tools and workflows for improved INFOMAR operational planning, data integration, analytics & visualisation, and data dissemination.
- Evolve data related products, services and workflows for specific user requirements (e.g. mapping & monitoring sensitive habitats / marine resource assessment and management / ORE site assessment & monitoring).
- Develop data & products addressing above *strategic value added aspects* of INFOMAR, through collating data needs, contributing to operational requirements scoping, leveraging cooperative approaches to delivery, and bespoke product development.
- Coordinate development of new tools, processes and data analytics techniques to improve accessibility and relevance of seabed and habitat mapping related outputs (e.g. Time Series monitoring).
- Adopting, developing and publishing of best practices, procedures, protocols and standards for data and product use and interpretation.
- Collation & provision of sector specific product guidance (e.g. for engineers, planners, fishers, policy makers), addressing issues including accuracy, reliability, and repeatability.
- Development and dissemination of outreach, education, and communication content, including for social media, Press Releases, and regular website updates.
- Expand and strengthen the INFOMAR network, and support coordination of key events, including the INFOMAR annual seminar, interim workshops and stakeholder meetings.
- Engage in INFOMARs cross partner communications and data groups (CommsSteering Group etc.).
- Liaise with AMS, GSI, MI cross division teams, and external stakeholders to track & align plans, and where feasible to co-develop mutually beneficial products and services.
- Support and develop ongoing and future INFOMAR related national and international research projects, including PhDs, Post Docs, H2020, Interreg, EMODnet, & EMFAF.

Any other relevant duties appropriate to the role and grade

## 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 degree in Marine Science or the equivalent combination of experience/qualifications in Marine Biology, Earth Science, or a related discipline.
- A thorough understanding of the INFOMAR programme, and associated data and products.
- Experience in stakeholder consultation, and user specific spatial data product development.
- Experience in presenting at conferences / meetings.
- Experience in manipulating & interrogating marine geospatial data

- A proven aptitude for spatial data visualisation and analysis technologies and for development of new and innovative data products and services.
- An understanding of key ancillary data types required and/or available for development of spatial decision tools for marine resource and coastal zone management.
- Experience of using GIS software to develop and publish maps and related data.
- A high level of computer literacy (including Microsoft Office suite, Internet/Email).
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels both in writing and verbally with technical, scientific, and non-technical groups.
- The ability to be well organised and work to deadlines identifying priorities and managing time effectively.
- Sufficiently fit to pass an ENG II Medical and participate in appropriate mandatory seagoing and safety related training.

### Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A post graduate or other professional qualification (e.g. marine science, hydrography, remote sensing, GIS, earth science, or oceanography).
- Competent with ESRI ArcGIS, including Spatial Analyst.
- Direct experience in development of data visualisation products.
- Familiarity with INFOMAR data users, and associated data and/or service requirements (e.g. for renewable energy developers, marine archaeologists, aquaculture, fisheries, shipping, diving).
- Experience in contributing to, or leading, research funding or project applications.
- Sea going experience.

### What else do you need to know?

#### (Special personal attributes required for the role)

- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently.
- The ability to work unsupervised and to work well with others.
- Dynamic and reliable.
- Good interpersonal skills and confidence to deal with external cross sector stakeholders.
- A full clean driving licence and own transport.

### Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

The mission of **Ocean, Climate and Information Services (OCIS)** is *“To provide scientific, operational and analytical support and services to strategic RTDI and statutory monitoring programmes (at national and international level) to promote and support the sustainable development of Ireland’s marine resources “*

Ocean, Climate and Information Services incorporates:

- Information Services & Development
- Advanced Mapping Services
- Research Vessel Operations
- Oceanographic and Climate Services

- Research Infrastructures
- Operational elements of Discovery R&D Programmes including:
  - Advanced Technology
  - Renewable Ocean Energy

**INFOMAR** (Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland’s Marine Resource) is Ireland’s national seabed mapping programme. INFOMAR is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). It is delivered by joint management partners Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and the Marine Institute (MI). INFOMAR aims to provide comprehensive and accessible marine datasets for Irish waters that underpin and add value to marine research, SOLAS Convention obligations and government policy. These products will foster growth within the national blue economy, maintain the health and integrity of our natural marine environment while facilitating international collaboration and best practice in the sustainable development of Ireland's marine resource.

The first phase (2006-2016) is complete and the outputs are underpinning a diverse range of navigational, environmental, cultural and international legislative requirements. During Phase 2 (2016-2026), mapping Ireland’s remaining inshore and offshore waters will augment and enhance the value of Ireland’s marine resource, through to programme completion end 2026.

The program delivers a wide range of benefits to multi-sectoral end-users across the national blue economy, with an emphasis on enabling MI and GSI stakeholders.

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

The successful candidate will be based at the Marine Institute HQ in Oranmore and will report directly to the Advanced Mapping Team Leader(s), Section Manager or designated alternative.

### 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.

#### Training

A full range of training will be provided as required, on the job and through appropriate courses. Training needs will be identified through the MI Performance Management Development System (PMDS).

### Contacts:

**Marine Institute:** Advanced Mapping Section Manager, Advanced Mapping Section Team Leader (s), Chief Scientist (s), FEAS, MEFSS (particularly the team delivering technical aspects of MSP & MSFD for DECC, DHLGH & DAFM), EMFAF Projects Team. Other Section Managers, Team Leaders and STOs across MI Service Groups

**Externally:** Programme partners Geological Survey Ireland. EMODnet Seabed Habitats Project Partners. Regular liaison with national and international project partners and collaborators. Government Departments, State Agencies, Higher Education Sector, Private Sector, Voluntary Groups and International Organisations.

## Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Scientific and Technical Officer Grade which runs from €38,083 - €77,284 on a full time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €38,083 and 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 and are a member of another Public Sector Scheme.

## Annual Leave:

Annual leave entitlement for a Scientific & Technical Officer (Engineer III grade) is 25 working days per annum pro-rated to reflect time worked. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays. All leave must be approved in advance in line with Marine Institute leave policies and using time and leave management system in place, by your manager or their authorised representative.

## Duration of Contract:

This temporary specific purpose contract of employment will be for up to a maximum period of up to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026, subject to continued funding. The successful candidate 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 Ireland’s scientific agency responsible for supporting the sustainable development of the state’s maritime area and resources. We do this through conducting applied research and providing scientific knowledge, advice and services to government, industry and other stakeholders and users. This policy advice capacity, our broad mandate, and the research programmes we fund and undertake, give us a unique insight into the science-policy interface and make us an exemplar in the provision of integrated ocean knowledge.

The Marine Institute provides a broad range of essential scientific support to its parent department, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). There is an increasing demand from Government for the data and evidence that are essential to inform national policy and to underpin the state’s governance of our maritime area. Through laboratory, field and seagoing work, the Institute carries out statutory environmental, fisheries and aquaculture surveys, seafood testing and other monitoring programmes assigned by government. The Institute plays an important role in supporting the state’s response to the impacts of our changing seas and oceans, through working with the national and international scientific community to observe, study and understand our changing oceans. This essential scientific advice supports industry, protects consumers and underpins legislative and other obligations aimed at the protection and management of the marine environment.

**Our vision** - *The Marine Institute is a national and international leader in ocean knowledge that benefits people, policy and planet.*

**Our Mission** - *The Marine Institute provides scientific, research and development services to government, agencies, industry and society that support the sustainable use of our maritime area, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and promote a shared understanding of the ocean.*

There are 6 broad service areas within the Marine Institute; (1) Ocean, Climate and Information Services, (2) Marine Environment & Fish Health Services, (3) Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, (4) Irish Maritime Development Office, (5) Policy, Information and Research Services and (6) Corporate Services.

The Marine Institute 5 Year Strategic Plan (2023 to 2027) 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](mailto:recruitment@marine.ie) or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, H91 R673. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **OCIS/STO/HABMAP/VAE/OCT24**

### **Closing date for Applications:**

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12<sup>th</sup> of November 2024**. 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 (GDPR) 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.**