

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Laboratory Analyst – MSFD Eutrophication and EOVs Biogeochemistry
Grade & Contract	Laboratory Analyst Grade Temporary Specified Purpose Contract of Employment up to 31st December 2029– DCEE Funded
Service Group	Marine Environment and Food Safety Services
Location	Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland The Marine Institute has a Blended Working Policy in Place

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

The successful candidate will work within a team delivering scientific services relating to ocean health and pollution as a pressure on the marine environment, in support of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). This work supports the development of measures to protect the marine environment as required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and OSPAR Convention.

The successful candidate will support the MSFD biogeochemistry Team Leader in developing effective data flows for marine biogeochemical conditions (essential ocean variables) and pollutants thus contributing to meeting monitoring and assessment requirements of OSPAR and the MSFD. Specifically, he/she will support the laboratory and field measurement and reporting for essential biogeochemical parameters in Irish marine waters, such as nutrients and certain other parameters specified in the MSFD (Annex III and Descriptor 5) and OSPAR Convention (Eutrophication and Ocean Acidification) and Water Framework Directive.

Additionally, the successful candidate may assist with the analysis and reporting of other contaminants in the marine environment as required by the MSFD (in particular under Descriptors 8 and 9) and OSPAR.

Laboratory work will adhere to the relevant quality systems currently in operation in the Institute and in particular conform to INAB (ISO/IEC 17025:2017) accreditation.

The Marine Institute is currently undertaking a review of organisation structure, which when complete may impact the roles and duties of employees and bring about change. Any impacts or changes will be communicated.

What will you be doing every day?

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

1. Assist the MSFD Marine Biogeochemistry Team Leader in providing technical support to DCEE in its delivery of the national MSFD work programme and relevant OSPAR activities in relation to marine pollution and ocean biogeochemical health.

2. Carry out high quality analysis of biogeochemical parameters (essential ocean variables such as dissolved nutrients, dissolved oxygen, carbonate system, high accuracy salinity). This will be primarily laboratory analysis.
3. Contribute to biogeochemistry data generation and flows. This will include data and metadata gathering, input to databases, quality control, data collation, and preparation of datasets for reporting to MSFD/OSPAR/ICES in specified formats.
4. Perform method development, optimisations, validation for the analysis of biogeochemical parameters in seawater and troubleshooting as necessary.
5. Undertake sampling as required, for example, supporting sentinel observatories
6. Participate on key surveys on board research vessels.
7. Contribute to the Marine Institute's Quality System and develop and implement ISO17025:2017 procedures and best quality practices in relation to the above work.
8. Assist with assessments of the marine environment and the preparation of reports and publications of relevance to national MSFD and OSPAR work led by DCEE.
9. Liaise with DCEE, EPA and other relevant organisations as appropriate.
10. Contribute to the provision of information and scientific advice for policy development to DCEE.
11. Participate in internal MI meetings.
12. Any other duties as may be 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 Science subject or an equivalent qualification.
- Relevant work experience in an analytical laboratory, ideally with familiarity in the chemical analysis of environmental matrices.
- Demonstrated experience of basic analytical laboratory skills.
- Excellent working knowledge of modern analytical instrumentation.
- Proven scientific & technical report writing skills.
- Willingness to complete both field-based and work at sea on board research vessels and be sufficiently fit to pass an ENG II/Seafarers medical and related training.
- Experience in the use of standard Microsoft Office software packages.
- Ability to communicate effectively and good interpersonal skills.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A degree, or post-graduate qualification in analytical chemistry, marine science or equivalent.
- Knowledge of marine/environmental science and biogeochemical processes.
- Relevant workplace analytical experience, preferably using automated advanced analytical instrumentation (e.g. continuous flow analysis, hyphenated mass-spectrometry, GC/LC), for the trace analysis of chemical parameters in environmental samples.
- Demonstrated experience in working in an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory environment and a good understanding of quality systems
- Experience of maintaining/deploying field sensors for measuring biogeochemical parameters.

- Skilled in analytical troubleshooting and experience of method development.
- Experience in field sampling for environmental monitoring programmes/projects.
- Experience in evaluating environmental/water quality data.
- Proven experience in preparing technical reports and publications.
- Experience with data analysis software and/or laboratory software packages.
- Experience in sea-based oceanographic/environmental research surveys on-board research vessels or equivalent.
- A full driving licence.

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

- A proven ability to use his/her own initiative while at the same time working well as a team player.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- The ability to work to deadlines and manage time effectively.
- Experience in collaborating with scientists and members of a technical team.
- Excellent time management and organisation skills, with the ability to work well under pressure in the delivery of multiple deadlines.
- Possess a diplomatic manner, with the ability to resolve issues before conflict occurs.
- Attention to detail and an analytical approach to problem solving.

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

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS) provide government agencies, industry and other clients with marine licensing advice, food safety, environmental and fish health scientific services; through the implementation of monitoring and research programmes and the provision of advice and regulation. The successful candidate will be based in MI Headquarters in Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

- We provide expert integrated advice to Government in support of sustainable development and management of the marine environment; and technical support on implementation of European and national food safety and environmental legislation.
- Working with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, we monitor seafood safety, supporting the Irish seafood industry's reputation for high quality products and meeting national and international regulatory requirements.
- We undertake monitoring of marine environmental health under the OSPAR convention and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and MEFSS works with the Environmental Protection Agency in delivering significant components of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring programme.
- We test for fish and shellfish diseases and aim to maintain Ireland's superior fish and shellfish health status, supporting the aquaculture industry and inland fisheries sector.
- We undertake national and international collaborative research projects in support of our core monitoring and advisory services.
- Our fish health unit is the national authority responsible for implementation of EU and national aquatic animal health legislation. We oversee and monitor the movement of finfish and shellfish into, out of, and within Ireland.

Food safety, environmental monitoring and fish health work are accredited in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The work of the Fish Health Competent Authority is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

The position will be based in the Marine Chemistry Section. This section has a team of approx. 22 scientists, analysts, researchers and support staff engaged in undertaking statutory monitoring and complementary research and providing scientific advice relating to the health of the marine environment and the quality of marine foodstuffs. The section maintains a suite of well-equipped laboratories undertaking trace analysis of metals, persistent organic pollutants, residues and biogeochemical parameters in environmental matrices.

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

The successful candidate will report to the MSFD Marine Biogeochemistry Team Leader.

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:

Within the Marine Institute:

MSFD Marine Biogeochemistry Team Leader, Section Manager Marine Chemistry, Senior Laboratory Analyst, MSFD Section managers and Team, Chemistry Section and Management Team & Director MEFSS, Staff of MEFSS.

External:

Marine Environment Division of DCEE. Liaison with other Government Departments including Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, scientists and officials from other government organisations such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Dept of Finance approved Salary Scale for a Laboratory Analyst which runs from €41,181 - €67,737 on a full time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €41,181 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 Laboratory Analyst is 23 days per annum. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays and are managed using the Time & Leave Management System in place in the organisation. 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:

The contract will be issued on a temporary specified purpose basis for a duration up to 31st December 2029, subject to continued funding. Successful candidates 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 & Food Safety 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 or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, H91 R673. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **MEFSS/LA/MSFD/JAN26**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12:00 noon on Tuesday the 27th of January 2026**. Please note that late applications will not 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.