

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Scientific Technical Officer (STO) – Fish Health Unit, MEFSS
Grade & Contract	Temporary Specified Purpose Contract for up to 12 months (Sick Leave related Cover)
Service Group	Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)
Location	MI HQ, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway We have a Blended Working Policy in Place which may apply to this role

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

This important role supports our organisation in the delivery of its essential work programmes. This role provides candidates with the opportunity to work in a diverse organisation which invests in and celebrates its people.

The Fish Health Unit is Ireland's NRL for Finfish, Mollusc, and Crustacean Diseases. The laboratory monitors listed and emerging diseases, ensuring compliance with Council Directive 2006/88/EC and Regulation (EU) 2016/429. There is an ongoing requirement to maintain and develop capacity and expertise in shellfish diseases, particularly in response to national surveillance and EU reporting obligations.

The NRL is responsible for developing, validating and implementing appropriate methods for the testing of fish and shellfish diseases; monitoring for the diseases specified in Council Directive 2006/88/EC as well as for diseases of national importance. The laboratory is accredited to ISO 17025 standard. The FHU is also engaged in a number of research programmes related to diseases of significance for the fish and shellfish aquaculture industry in Ireland.

The successful candidate will participate in supporting method development and validation essential for building diagnostic capabilities at the NRL. The STO will contribute to the implementation of the Institute's ISO17025 Quality System and may assist with data management and preparation of technical reports and products. 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.

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?

Principal Tasks:

- Provide specialist support and advice on shellfish health and disease to the Marine Institute's Fish Health Unit and the Competent Authority Office, with a focus on reporting and quality assurance.
- Support the preparation, review, and submission of shellfish health reports, including diagnostic summaries, surveillance data, and regulatory documentation.
- Assist in the coordination and documentation of shellfish health investigations, including mortality events and pre-movement health checks.

- Contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the Quality System (ISO 17025) as it relates to molluscan disease diagnostics, including document control, audit preparation, and corrective actions.
- Carry-out routine screening for specific pathogens using Real-time PCR as required
- Act as a liaison between laboratory teams and quality management to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and facilitate continuous improvement.
- Review and support the implementation of diagnostic methods and regulatory requirements for shellfish diseases, ensuring alignment with EU regulations and WOAAH standards.
- Participate in internal audits and quality reviews and contribute to the development of SOPs and quality documentation.
- Assist with procurement planning and stock management for shellfish diagnostic activities, ensuring traceability and quality compliance.
- Support research reporting and dissemination activities, including formatting and submission of scientific papers and presentations.
- Attend relevant meetings, workshops, and conferences to stay informed on shellfish health developments and contribute to knowledge exchange.
- Undertake any other duties appropriate to the role and grade, particularly those that enhance the quality and reporting functions of the Fish Health Unit.

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 relevant qualification at level 7 degree in biology science or a related field.
- Demonstrated relevant post qualification work experience, ideally to include working in a diagnostic laboratory.
- Understanding of shellfish health and disease, with the ability to interpret diagnostic results and regulatory requirements.
- Demonstrated understanding and/or practical laboratory experience working in the areas of molecular biology, histology, microbiology, or virology
- Demonstrated experience working on collaborative research projects.
- Demonstrated experience in working in an ISO17025 accredited laboratory environment.
- High level of computer literacy including proficiency in the use of standard office software packages.
- Strong written and verbal communication for reporting results and liaising with stakeholders.
- Effective numerical and literacy skills.
- A full driving licence.

Desirable:

- A post graduate qualification in a relevant scientific discipline.
- Knowledge and experience of dealing with the aquaculture / fishing industry.
- Practical experience of field-based sampling
- Experience providing advice to competent authorities and other government agencies.

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate and present effectively at all levels.
- Be industrious, decisive and self-sufficient with a proven ability to use your own initiative while at the same time working well as a team player to achieve common goals.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to constructively collaborate with scientists and members of a technical team.
- Ability to work on own initiative, and progress work independently.
- Excellent time management and organisation skills, with the ability to work well under pressure in the delivery of multiple deadlines.
- Attention to detail, and an analytical approach to problem solving.
- Solutions oriented and possesses sound, balanced judgement and strong analytical abilities.
- Solutions orientated with excellent initiative and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work in a team environment to achieve common goals.
- Good interpersonal skills, with ability to positively interact with a wide range of people at different organisational levels.
- Ability to effectively communicate results of teamwork in written and audio-visual formats.
- Ability to travel for work in the field, for meetings and training, with an interest in travel for national or international project meetings.

Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS) is a service area of the Marine Institute that plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of sea-food, preserving environmental health, providing a variety of policy supports and safeguarding fish health. Operating as an integral part of the Institute, MEFSS undertakes multifaceted responsibilities primarily through the execution of scientific monitoring and research programs, coupled with offering expert scientific interpretation and regulatory guidance to government.

Within MEFSS, The **Fish Health Unit (FHU)** is comprised of two teams the Competent Authority and the National Reference Laboratory for fish, mollusc and crustacean diseases. The competent Authority are responsible for the implementation of the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429) as it applies to fish and shellfish. The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) is responsible for developing, validating and implementing appropriate methods for the testing of fish and shellfish diseases; monitoring for the diseases specified in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as well as for diseases of national importance; and investigation of unexplained mortalities in fish and shellfish stocks. The FHU is comprised of a suite of laboratories including histology, virology, bacteriology and molecular biology to facilitate the diagnosis of all relevant aquatic diseases.

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

The successful candidate will report to the Fish and Shellfish Health team leaders, MEFSS.

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:

Director MEFS, FHU Section Manager, FHU Team Leaders, FHU Team & Staff of MEFS

External:

Liaison with scientists and officials from other government organisations such as the SFPA, BIM and the aquaculture industry as required.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Scientific Technical Officer which runs from €39,474 -€79,618 on a full-time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €39,474 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 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 12 months in duration providing cover for sick leave. This is an estimation of the cover needed and may alter in duration subject to business needs. You will be advised with notice of any alternations to the term. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first six 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 the 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 or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, H91 R673. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **MEFSS/FHU/STOSL/NOV25**.

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute **in advance of 12 noon on Friday the 14th of November 2025**. Unfortunately, we cannot accept late applications.

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.