

## Marine Institute Job Description

<b>Position</b>	<b>Scientific &amp; Technical Officer (STO): BlueBio Boost Project</b>
<b>Grade &amp; Contract</b>	<b>Scientific &amp; Technical Officer Grade Specified purpose contract for a maximum duration of 30 months (up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027) - funded by Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)</b>
<b>Service Group</b>	<b>Fisheries Ecosystem Advisory Services - FEAS</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Marine Institute, Oranmore, 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 work within the Aquaculture Section of FEAS as a Scientific and Technical Officer (STO), with responsibility for delivering the Marine Institute inputs to the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) funded BlueBio Boost project (Boosting seaweed farming through better utilization of genetic resources), a European project with partners from Norway, Ireland, Sweden and Belgium and coordinated by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). The project aims to promote the sustainable development of the European seaweed industry by improving the efficiency of propagation and selection of suitable genotypes adapted to local conditions on a regional scale.

The Marine Institute has a central role in the project, as the Lehanagh Pool Marine Research Site will be utilised for seaweed cultivation and undertaking experimental field trials. The successful candidate will oversee the completion of the trials at Lehanagh Pool, in conjunction with the Irish Seaweed Consultancy (ISC). Additional tasks will include liaising with the project leaders at the NMBU to ensure all administrative requirements for the project are completed, experimental design, sampling and data collection.

### What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

#### Principal Tasks:

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

- Rearing and related husbandry of the seaweed cultures at the Lehanagh Pool Marine Research Site.
- Management of data collection and synthesis for the project including administration in collaboration with the Principle Investigator.
- Undertaking a programme of sampling and data collection for BlueBio Boost milestones and deliverables to ensure samples and *in situ* data collected are fit for purpose.
- Assist the BlueBio Boost Principle Investigator in ensuring all project tasks and deliverables are completed on time.
- Assist in the development of the experimental design of the field trials at Lehanagh Pool.
- Assist with stakeholder engagement activities within the project including holding a workshop on developing strategies for the development of the seaweed industry.
- Ensuring all procedures and activities are integrated into the Aquaculture Section SOP's
- Participate in data collection, analysis and publish in the scientific literature.
- Attend relevant project and section meetings.

- Liaise with project partners and staff involved in delivering the programme.
- Any other duties relevant to the position, project and grade 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 Degree in a relevant scientific area.
- Relevant post qualification work experience in a scientific or technical environment including field work, data collection and biological sampling.
- Experience of working safely in a laboratory/field environment and the use of standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Sea going experience and sufficiently fit to pass an ENG II Medical and participate in appropriate mandatory safety related training.
- Strong data handling skills.
- A high level of computer literacy including the use of standard office software packages.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels both in writing and verbally with technical and scientific and non-technical groups.
- Proven track record in effectively preparing scientific reports or peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- Good time management and the ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
- The ability to work unsupervised and to work well with others.
- Effective organisation and administration skills.
- A full clean Driving License.

#### **Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:**

- A postgraduate qualification in marine science or an equivalent.
- Work experience in aquaculture related management and/or research, experience in seaweed cultivation would be an advantage.
- Experience in the use of database, mapping, statistical and graphing software.
- Experience with stakeholder engagement activities such as workshops and seminars.

#### **What else do you need to know?** (Special personal attributes required for the role)

- It is essential that the successful candidate is a good communicator and works well with colleagues.
- Flexible as the position may involve husbandry duties as part of a weekend rota
- Dynamic and reliable.
- Self-sufficient, while being a good team player.
- Highly organised and the ability to work under pressure in a dynamic environment.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to work with and effectively communicate with the marine stakeholders.
- Effective organisation and administration skills.
- Good written and verbal communication skills in addition to effective numeracy skills.
- Demonstrated ability to use initiative.

## Description of Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) Service Group and the Wider Team

Currently, FEAS consists of over 90 scientific, technical, post graduate and administrative staff under the directorship of Dr Ciaran Kelly. The Service group operates a significant part of their services from the Marine Institute headquarters in Oranmore, Co Galway with additional port-based facilities and a [research facility at Newport](#), Co Mayo and Cashel, Co. Galway. The mission of FEAS is “to research, assess and advise on the sustainable use of marine fisheries resources”.

FEAS provide integrated advice and scientific support for the Irish government (principally the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine [DAFM](#)) on marine fisheries ecosystems related issues. A key output of FEAS is the annual [Stock Book and the annual Shellfisheries Stock Book](#). These provide the latest assessments and scientific advice for the resources exploited by Irish vessels and is a key reference for the Governments sustainability assessment presented annually to the Oireachtas. FEAS experts also provide scientific services and support to other government departments including Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ([DHLGH](#)) to address the Marine Strategy Framework Directive ([MFS](#)) requirements through [OSPAR](#) and national reporting under an SLA ([service level agreement](#)). FEAS provide scientific services to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications ([DECC](#)) related to offshore renewable energy development.

FEAS experts actively participate at many meetings of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas ([ICES](#)). At ICES our scientists are focused on advancing scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, providing information, knowledge and advice on the sustainable management of human activities affecting and affected by marine ecosystems. ICES is a key forum for scientific co-ordination of data collection and the provision of independent scientific advice. FEAS scientists are also encouraged to publish much of their work in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

FEAS experts also participate at other international fora including [STECF](#) (Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries), [ICCAT](#) (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas), [NEAFC](#) (North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission) and [NASCO](#) (North Atlantic Salmon Commission). FEAS provide scientific support for DAFM at various EU meetings (e.g. the EU Norway Agreements and the EU Council of Fisheries Ministers).

FEAS experts also carry out research and stock assessments on diadromous fish species (salmonids and eels) and are responsible for the salmon National Coded Wire Tagging and Tag Recovery programme and working closely with [IFI](#) (Inland Fisheries Ireland) on the Standing Scientific Committees for salmon and eel. In recent years FEAS has developed a core expertise in oceanic tracking of large marine fish. The FEAS Aquaculture Section is responsible for the operation of the National Sea Lice Monitoring Programme and carries out a range of national and internationally funded research projects based at MI facilities.

Further details can be found on the Marine Institute website:

<https://www.marine.ie/site-area/areas-activity/fisheries-ecosystems/fisheries-ecosystems>

<https://www.marine.ie/site-area/areas-activity/aquaculture/aquaculture>

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

You will report directly to the Aquaculture Section Manager and be supported by the Senior Laboratory Analyst and researchers in the Aquaculture Section.

## 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:

Aquaculture Section Manager & Staff of the Aquaculture Section and FEAS Division. The Senior Laboratory Analyst and wider fish rearing team in Newport.

### External:

All project partners particularly the Irish Seaweed Consultancy. Aqualicense staff responsible for the daily operation of the Lehanagh Pool Marine Research Site.

## Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Scientific & Technical Officer, with a full time salary scale as at June 2024 running from €37,583 - €76,519 per annum, pro-rated with time worked. You will start at the first point of the scale 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 or 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:

The contract will be issued on a specified purpose basis for a maximum duration of 30 months /up to and date of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027, subject to funding with a 6-month probationary period.

## 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 **FEAS/STO/BlueBio Boost/Sept24**

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

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October 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.**