

## Marine Institute Job Description

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| Position         | <b>Temporary Scientific and Technical Officer, Marine Socio-Economic and Social Data &amp; Evidence Programme</b>   |
| Grade & Contract | <b>Scientific and Technical Officer (ENG III)<br/>Temporary Specified Purpose Contract of Employment up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023– DHLGH Funded</b>                        |
| Service Group    | <b>Policy, Innovation &amp; Research Support (PIRS)</b>   |
| Location         | <b>Marine Institute HQ, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway.<br/>(noting that we are currently considering &amp; drafting our blended working policy which may apply to this role)</b> |

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

Working with a cross-services team, led by Marine Environment and Food Safety Services, the successful candidate will provide a key role in providing socio-economic data-focused services and products to support marine policy and planning.

The successful candidate will work within the policy support function in Policy, Innovation & Research Support (PIRS) Group in the Marine Institute. PIRS conducts and coordinates policy analyses including socio-economic research, science and industry foresight, and contributes to the development of strategy and integrated marine policy at both national, EU and international level.

The candidate will work in partnership with researchers in SEMRU, University of Galway, in the ongoing research into the dynamics of Ireland's ocean and coastal economies, national data collection and modelling requirements required for marine policy and planning, a sustainable blue economy and regional and rural analysis.

To do this, the team in the Marine Institute works closely and collaborates with a variety of external partners to define requirements, oversee technical service delivery, and to acquire relevant expertise and content from a range of sources, including government partners and research organisations.

The STO will support the Team Leader in developing other socio-economic research initiatives; such as identification of approaches to define intangible benefits (e.g. access, health and wellbeing, cultural and historic assets) and recommendations on emerging practice of importance to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) e.g. natural capital. They will contribute to the development of NMPF monitoring, including reporting on appropriate socio-economic indicators and where appropriate, establishing baselines / evidence required to support decision making.

## What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

### Principal Tasks:

Working with the Team Leader Marine Socio-Economic and Social Data Programme:

- Collection and analysis of socio-economic data and information required to support the delivery of MSP and related marine socio-economic outputs and services to Government (as outlined above). This includes data discovery and collation; processing and analysis of marine spatial data; and the preparation of maps.
- Linking with the CSO, BIM, DHLGH, University of Galway and other organisations, to provide data on the annual performance and economic statistics across a range of marine industries.
- Update of economic and marine enterprise databases.
- Provide a range of marine socio-economic programme outputs and services relevant to the implementation of MSP in Ireland, including socio-economic data required for regional planning and Designated Maritime Areas Plans (DMAPS). This includes data and analysis required for national reporting, assessments and associated publications, National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) monitoring approach and the MSP digital tool [www.marineplan.ie](http://www.marineplan.ie) Keep up to date on applicable economic and social assessment methodologies and advise on best practice and evolving methodologies.
- Participate in relevant national and international meetings to support collation, collection and analysis of social and economic spatial data relevant to the marine and coastal economies. Any other duties as relevant to the programmes, position 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 subject including Commerce/Business, science, data analytics, spatial analysis or planning, engineering or other numerical discipline.
- Relevant experience with collection and analysis of economic / technical data and knowledge of economic modelling approaches.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels both in writing and verbally with technical and non-technical groups.
- The ability to work unsupervised with demonstrated ability to use initiative.
- A high level of computer literacy including the use of MS Office applications and statistical software.

### Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A PhD / Postgraduate qualification in economics, business or relevant subject areas or relevant work experience.
- Experience of statistical analysis of socio-economic data.
- Experience in the use of economic modelling approaches and social impact analysis.
- Experience with developing and using qualitative research tools (e.g. surveys, interviews etc.).

- Experience in use of Geographical Information Systems and data management practices.
- Knowledge of Ireland's ocean economy and related maritime activities.

## What else do you need to know?

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

- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Demonstrates energy, dynamism, reliability and a positive attitude.
- Takes ownership of tasks and is determined to see them through to a conclusion.
- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently, managing time effectively to deliver multiple outputs on time.
- A collaborative and open approach to project and programme success.
- Self-sufficiency, while being a good team player.
- Possesses sound, balanced judgement and strong analytical abilities.
- The ability to remain focused when multiple important deadlines coincide.
- Solutions orientated with excellent initiative and problem solving skills.

### Description of Service Group: PIRS – The Wider Team

This position will be within the PIRS Service Group and will contribute to a cross-services team, coordinated and managed by MEFSS, for the delivery of products required under the Marine Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).

#### **Policy, Innovation and Research Support**

Policy, Innovation and Research Support (PIRS) plays a key role in supporting and promoting marine policy, research and innovation at national and international level. PIRS works collaboratively to implement key aspects of the MI Strategy, Building Ocean Knowledge, Delivering Ocean Services. Our work has relevance across all parts of the strategy but is particularly important for achieving the goals of Strategic Focus Areas 3 (Research & Innovation) and 1 (Scientific Advice and Services).

A key role of the Service Area is to manage the *circa* €7m per annum in competitive grant-aid funding awarded under the Marine Research Programme. In tandem with this PIRS promotes MI-funded and other national marine and maritime research to raise the profile and awareness of Marine R&I activity in Ireland and internationally. PIRS also leads and coordinates MI participation in a range of international science policy fora aimed at advancing the MI and Ireland's international research collaborations and influencing the international research agenda. On behalf of the MI, PIRS provides a range of services to the Irish marine and maritime research community to maximise our national success rate in winning international research funding. At the national level, PIRS coordinates the development of advice and input on behalf of the MI to ensure that national research strategies and policies are as aligned as possible to the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021.

PIRS conducts and coordinates policy analyses, socio-economic research, science and industry foresight, and contributes to the development of strategy and integrated marine policy at both MI and national level. Key areas of activity include:

- Provision of services that support integrated cross-government marine co-ordination feeding into Integrated Marine Policy (IMP) nationally and at EU level. This includes providing analysis and policy support to government departments and agencies; and
- Establishing and maintaining a community of interest in marine socio-economic research in Ireland.

### **Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFS)**

The MEFS provides government agencies, industry and other clients with food safety, environmental and fish health scientific services. In addition to these roles, and particularly relevant to this post, MEFS coordinates the provision of scientific and technical support from across the MI for the development and implementation of the MSP for Ireland, which is to be produced by the DHPLG.

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

The successful candidate will report directly to Team Leader Marine Socio-Economic and Social Data Programme.

### **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:**

**Marine Institute:** Team Leader Marine Socio-Economic and Social Data Programme, PIRS Director, PIRS Policy Support Team Lead, MSP Section Manager and team members; Information Services and Development team members; Other Section Managers, Team Leaders and STOs across MI Service Groups.

**Externally:** Researchers in the Socio-Economic Research Unit, NUI Galway, liaison with government departments including Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; economists and officials from other government organisations such as CSO, BIM, sectoral development agencies; research/higher education institutes; industry; European Commission, the JRC, the OSPAR Commission and other organisations as may be required.

### **Salary:**

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Scientific and Technical Officer (STO) which runs from €34,643-€71,568 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:**

Annual leave entitlement for an STO (ENG III) is 25 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 specified purpose basis for up to a maximum duration of up to 31st December 2023, 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 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](mailto:recruitment@marine.ie) or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **PIRS/STO/Socio-Econ/Feb23**

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

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon 16th of March 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.**