

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Scientific & Technical Officer (STO) Spatial Data Analyst & Services Developer - Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning Policy Support
Grade & Contract	Temporary Specified Purpose Contract of Employment up to 31st December 2023 – DHPLG Funded
Service Group	Ocean Climate and Information Services (OCIS)
Location	Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland. (Noting that the Marine Institute has introduced a Blended Working Policy, which you may be able to apply for in due course in line with the Policy.)

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

The successful candidate will be based within the Institute’s Information Services and Development section. Working with the MSP and MSFD cross-service teams, the work undertaken will directly support the management and availability of marine environmental data and information to support evidence-based decision-making and reporting on the marine environment.

As the National Marine Data Centre, the Marine Institute collects and manages numerous data sets for a variety of purposes to support sustainable marine resources and environmental management on behalf of the public. Many of these data sets can be used to support marine spatial planning, while others are used to inform Government on the environmental status of conditions in the marine environment based on European Union criteria of GES as defined under the MSFD. That data can also be used to support the Institute’s legal monitoring commitments under the Oslo-Paris (OSPAR) convention and Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The successful candidate will work with Marine Institute scientists to ensure that the tools and processes are in place to enable data from across a range of disciplines to be well managed and available for use in an MSP for Ireland and to make GES determinations under MSFD. The role will support, develop and ensure the availability of underlying data management systems and technical processes. This will include databases, data processing scripts, data cataloguing, data access tools and processes, as well as reporting and analysis services.

The role will also be responsible for the governance and maintenance of relevant data, to ensure compliance with data legislation and licensing terms, and to ensure the currency, quality, availability and appropriate use of third party data underpinning the MSP and MSFD programmes.

The successful candidate will need to closely collaborate with a variety of personnel across service areas and with external partners and experts, particularly the Institute’s Chemistry section.

What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

- Expand the Marine Institute’s data services, with a particular focus on spatial data, in line with the requirements of the MSP and MSFD programmes and supporting activities in the Marine Institute’s Strategic Plan and Data Strategy.
- Ensure spatial data services, including online maps, spatial processing services and mapping APIs, are developed and maintained to meet programme needs.
- Support access to relevant scientific and environmental data holdings for Institute teams and external service requestors.
- Document the quality of data management processes and procedures in line with the Institute’s data management quality management framework (DM-QMF).
- Develop and encourage the adoption of data management best practices for Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Strategy Framework Directive delivery.
- Support data process improvements to support quality control and assurance.
- Act as a liaison between the data and MEFSS scientific teams involved in delivering MSFD/WFD/OSPAR programme objectives.
- Attend relevant meetings or working groups.
- Participate in research activities that support the programmes.
- Carry out data management duties in the SLA team.
- Any other duties as relevant to the position 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 or equivalent higher qualification in IT/Computer Science, engineering or other numerical disciplines.
- Experience with spatial data and analysis, including the use of GIS.
- Experience in the management of data, ideally scientific or environmental datasets.
- Database skills, preferably in MS SQL Server or similar enterprise-scale DBMS.
- The ability to be well organised and work to deadlines identifying priorities and managing time effectively.
- 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 work unsupervised and to work well with others.
- A demonstrated willingness to learn.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- Experience with data analysis, visualisation and reporting tools to support access to data and information.
- Experience with a structured development process for software or databases, including use of version control and agile methods.
- Experience of data catalogues, metadata and making data discoverable through online services.
- Knowledge of scripting languages (such as Python, JavaScript, R, etc...).
- Experience in Business Analysis and Requirements Gathering.
- Experience in documenting technical specifications of workflows/processes or writing scientific papers, technical reports or white papers.

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

- An analytical approach to problem solving.
- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently.
- Dynamic and reliable.
- Self-sufficiency, while being a good team player.
- Ability to effectively communicate results of teamwork in written and audio-visual formats.

Description of Service Group: Ocean Climate and Information Services (OCIS)– The Wider Team

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

Ocean, Climate and Information Services (OCIS)

The mission of 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”

OCIS incorporates:

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

Information Services & Development (IS&D)

IS&D is responsible for the coordination of data activities and the provision of information technology. The Information Services & Development section provides coordination and direction for ICT and data technologies and process development. IS&D is made up of three teams:

- **Data Management:** This team provides guidance and support to promote best-practice management of the Institute’s scientific data assets.
- **Application Development:** This team manages software development and systems integration services to support Institute's operational and research activities.
- **IT Operations and Systems:** This team continually develops the Institute’s ICT infrastructure to ensure it operates reliably and efficiently to support operational and advanced research activities.

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)

MEFSS provides Government agencies, industry and other clients with food safety, environmental and fish health scientific services. In addition to these, and particularly relevant to this post, MEFSS 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 DHLGH. Under the MSFD, MEFSS also supports DHLGH through data collection and reporting on MSFD descriptors 2, 5, 8 and 9, in coordination with reporting on other descriptors led by other service groups within the MI, in particular Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS).

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 OCIS Team Leader for SLA Data & Information Services.

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: Data Management team members within OCIS including the Senior Data Analyst for European Data Management Projects; Information Services & Development Section Manager. Other Section Managers, Team Leaders and STOs across MI Service Groups.

Externally: Regular liaison with Government collaborators from across Ireland and the rest of Europe.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for the Scientific & Technical Officer (Engineer III grade) with a salary of €35,336-€72,999 per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point €35,336 per annum exclusive of public holidays. You will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme unless you have access to an alternative pension scheme with service in a public sector role within the past six months.

Annual Leave:

The annual leave entitlement for a Scientific and Technical Officer is 25 working days per annum prorated to reflect time worked. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays. 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 period of 31st December 2023, subject to continued funding. 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 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 or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **OCIS/STO/GIS/Feb23**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon Friday 31st 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.

