

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Scientific & Technical Officer (STO) Data Analyst - Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning Policy Support
Contract	Temporary Specified Purpose Contract of Employment up to 31st December 2023– DHPLG Funded
Service Group	Ocean Science and Information Services (OSIS)
Location	Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland

Brief Description of 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.

The vision of the Marine Institute is

“a thriving maritime economy in harmony with the ecosystem and supported by the delivery of excellence in our services “

In order to achieve this vision, the Marine Institute has six service areas; (1) Ocean Science and Information Services, (2) Marine Environment & Food Safety Services, (3) Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, (4) Irish Maritime Development Office, (5) Policy, Innovation and Research Support Services and (6) Corporate Services.

The Marine Institute 5 Year Strategic Plan (2018 to 2022) is available here at

<https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/about-us/corporate-strategy>

Harnessing our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) is an Integrated Maritime Plan (IMP) for Ireland. HOOW sets out a roadmap for the Irish Government’s vision, high level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Goal 2 of HOOW focuses on healthy marine ecosystems and specifically; to protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and

ecosystems; manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; implement and comply with environmental legislation (see www.ouroceanwealth.ie).

Brief Description of Service Group:

This position will sit within the OSIS 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 (2008/56/EC) and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU).

Ocean Science and Information Services (OSIS)

The mission of OSIS 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”*

Ocean Science and Information Services incorporates:

- Information Services & Development
- Advanced Mapping Services
- Research Vessel Operations
- Oceanographic Services incl. research Infrastructures and operational elements of the Ocean Energy programme

Information Services & Development (IS&D)

Information Services & Development (IS&D) is responsible for the co-ordination of data activities and the provision of information technology. 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:** The Data Management team provides guidance and support to promote best-practice management of the Institute’s scientific data assets.
- **Application Development:** The Application Development team manages software development and systems integration services in support Institute operational and research activities.
- **IT Operations and Systems:** This team continually develops the Institute’s ICT infrastructure to ensure it operates in a reliable and efficient manner to support operational and advanced research activities.

IS&D sits within the Ocean Science and Information Services service area.

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)

The MEFSS 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, 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 DHPCLG. Under the MSFD, MEFSS also supports DHPLG 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 FEAS.

Summary of the Role:

The successful candidate will work within the Institute's Information Services and Development team. Working with the Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Strategy Framework cross-service teams the work undertaken will directly support the management and spatial analysis of marine environmental data 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 resource and environmental management on behalf of the public. Many of these data sets can be represented spatially 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. The successful candidate will work with Marine Institute scientists and other groups to develop spatial data and evidence products for use in a MSP for Ireland, and data relevant for making GES determinations under MSFD.

They will be responsible for maintaining the availability and quality of data underpinning the MSP and MSFD programmes. The role will also develop, support and ensure the availability of underlying data services, infrastructure and data management processes. This will include databases, data cataloguing and data access 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, availability and appropriate use of third party data.

The successful candidate will need to closely collaborate with a variety of external partners to define requirements and acquire relevant content. They will coordinate requirements and data and information inputs from across the Marine Institute service groups in addition to government partners, research organisations and a range of external experts.

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Principal Tasks:

- Expand the Marine Institute's data management services in line with the requirements of the MSP and MSFD programmes and supporting activities in the Marine Institute's Strategic Plan and Data Strategy
- Analyse and report on the data management requirements
- Write documentation on data management practices within the Marine Institute and assist external partners with similar documentation
- Develop and encourage the adoption of data management best practices
- Liaise closely with international partners to ensure the timely delivery of quality data to European project and programme portals
- Maintain quality metadata for data held by the Institute in its master data catalogue; and support the delivery of Institute and partner data to programme stakeholders
- Participate in research activities that support the programmes
- Attend relevant meetings or working groups
- Liaise with partners and staff involved in delivering programme objectives
- Carry out supporting data management duties in the MI data management team

- Any other duties as relevant to the position and grade

Reporting Structure:

The successful candidate will be based at the Marine Institute HQ in Oranmore and will report directly to the Team Leader for Data Management.

Contacts:

Marine Institute: Data Management team members within OSIS 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 project partners and collaborators from across Ireland and the rest of Europe.

Education, Professional or Technical Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes, Experience, and Training

Essential:

- A degree or equivalent higher qualification in IT / Computer Science, engineering or other numerical discipline with a diploma in IT/Computer Science.
- Experience in the management and analysis data, ideally scientific or environmental datasets
- Data modelling experience and database development skills, preferably in MS SQL Server or similar enterprise scale DBMS
- Knowledge of scripting languages (such as Python, JavaScript, etc...)
- Experience in Business Analysis and Requirements Gathering
- Experience of documenting technical specifications and workflows / processes
- 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 and scientific and non-technical groups.
- The ability to work unsupervised and to work well with others.

Desirable:

- A master's degree or a PhD in an IT, scientific or related discipline.
- Experience with spatial data and the use and administration of Geographic Information Systems.
- Experience with spatial data analysis.
- Experience with data analysis, visualisation and reporting tools.
- Experience with statistical analysis of data.
- Experience with making data available through online services
- Record of publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals or writing other well-received technical reports and white papers
- An interest in, and an ability to, travel to project workshops and conferences across Europe (as required)

Special personal attributes required for the position:

- 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.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to effectively communicate results of teamwork in written and audiovisual formats.

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 €31,687-€66,118 per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point €31,687 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 temporary specified purpose basis for a duration up to 31st December 2023. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first six months of this contract.

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 **OSIS / STO / SpatialData – June 2020**

Closing date for applications. All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon on Tuesday June 30th 2020**. 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 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 equal opportunities employer