

Ph.D. Student Position: Marine Science Institute (ISMER), University of Quebec in Rimouski, Quebec, Canada

« KRILL demography and vital rates in the estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence »



Krill has a pivotal role in marine food webs worldwide being a trophic link between phytoplankton and higher trophic levels such as pelagic fish, seabirds, seals and whales. However our knowledge on population dynamics of krill species in the St. Lawrence estuary and gulf is very limited. This PhD project will focus on the annual cycle of important life history traits such as growth and reproduction of the two dominant krill

species, *Thysanoessa raschii* and *Meganyctiphanes norvegica*, in different regions of the St. Lawrence Gulf. Growth and reproduction rates will be linked to individual physiological condition and correlated to environmental parameters (physical and biological). Results will help to establish mechanistic functions of biological processes, providing a solid base for biological modelling of these two species.

The PhD project is part of a multidisciplinary project on « Production and consumption of krill: toward an ecosystem-based stock assessment » studying the ecological resilience of krill populations in the estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This research is a collaboration among ISMER (Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski) at the University of Quebec at Rimouski (UQAR), the Maurice Lamontagne Institut (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), University Laval, the Marine Park Saguenay-St-Lawrence and Neptune Technologies & Bioressources Inc.

The PhD project will be supervised by Stéphane Plourde (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and Gesche Winkler (ISMER-UQAR; www.ismer.ca).

Requirements:

- A Master's degree in biology, oceanography, or equivalent; with solid basis in marine ecology;
- Interest in marine ecology, field work and laboratory experimentations;
- Academic achievement: minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is 3,4 out of a possible 4,3 or equivalent;
- Achievement of minimum requirements for admission to the Master's programme in oceanography at ISMER, UQAR <<http://www.uqar.ca/oceanographie/etudes/#maitrise-en-oceanographie>>
- **Proficiency in French and English:** The primary language of instruction at UQAR is French. Good skills in English and French are an asset, but not essential for the position.

Financial support: • de 19 000\$/year for three years or a complement to a fellowship

Start of the PhD project: • May or September 2014

Application: includes a motivation letter, a complete CV, all university transcripts, coordinates of at least two referees for potential recommendation letters. Everything should be submitted as one single pdf file. The closing date for receipt of applications is until the position is filled. For all additional information and submission, please contact Stéphane Plourde (Stephane.Plourde@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or Gesche Winkler (gesche_winkler@uqar.ca).

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