


Research Assistant, School of Applied Sciences (SAS)	Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY 
Role Description	

Grade:	Grade 4
Campus Location:	Sighthill Campus
Line Manager:	Karen Diele, SAS
Line Management Responsibility for:	N/A
Role Summary:	<p>Historically, herring were abundant around the West of Scotland and of importance to the local economy. Today, the estimated herring stock size in ICES area 6a is at near an all-time low. In March 2018 and 2019 herring spawn was recorded near Loch Gairloch in Northwest Scotland within an area closed to mobile fishing so that its seabed has been protected to a greater degree than elsewhere around northwest Scotland. Following video footage broadcast on BBC Blue Planet UK and BBC Springwatch, the Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust [SWRFT] was awarded funding for a scoping study to review available information on herring spawning habitats and inform conservation and management requirements for seabed habitats where herring may spawn.</p> <p>The successful candidate is to be employed by Edinburgh Napier University to work as a Research Assistant for 5 months, in collaboration with the SWRFT. The incumbent will (1) carry out a literature review focusing on herring spawning habitats, considering published and 'grey' literature, (2) prepare a GIS map showing historic spawning sites in Wester Ross and (3) co-write a summary report with suggestions for a follow-up project including fieldwork and experimental laboratory components aimed at gaining more comprehensive information on the spawning ecology and habitat requirements of herring in the Wester Ross area.</p>

Main Duties and Responsibilities

<input type="checkbox"/>	Carry out literature, website and database searches
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform qualitative and/or quantitative data analyses, interviews and textual analyses as required; assemble, sort and interpret a range of data
<input type="checkbox"/>	Produce literature review report describing the seabed habitats where herring spawn has been recorded in the North-Atlantic, with a focus on NW of Scotland.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Produce an annotated map (GIS layer) showing records of herring spawn on the seabed around Wester Ross over the past 100 years (focusing on the past 40 years). Records of herring spawn from other nearby areas in NW Scotland are also of interest.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Actively participate as a member of the project team; attend and contribute to relevant meetings, communicate effectively with internal and external partners
➤	Report to Steering Group including representatives of Edinburgh Napier University, Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust, the William Grant Foundation and other stakeholders.
➤	Assist with project summary report including suggestions for future collaborative investigations aimed at informing the conservation and management of seabed habitats and associated wildlife including herring.
➤	Potentially: Assist in the publication of an article to be published in scientific journal
➤	Potentially: Support complementary field and/or laboratory activities, where appropriate and possible.

Person Specification

Attributes	❖ Essential Selection Criteria	Desirable Selection Criteria
Education/Qualifications	MSc Degree in Biological or Environmental Sciences	Postgraduate degree with a background in Marine Biology/Ecology
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of systematic literature search using online databases, archives, reference managing software etc. • Experience of assembling, sorting, interpreting and analysing data • Experience of writing and presenting research findings to high standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track-record in systematic literature reviewing • Experience in producing GIS maps • Scientific publications and/or reports • Having worked, with a range of academic and non-academic stakeholders

Skills/Personal Requirements

- Excellent organisational ability and time management skills
 - Excellent written and good oral communication and presentation skills
 - Good interpersonal skills
 - Ability to work under own initiative and as a member of a team
 - Ability to prioritize competing demands, meet deadlines and to work on more than one task at a time
 - Ability to contribute to the planning of research projects
 - Fluent in spoken and written English
 - Ability to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends as required
 - Capability and willingness to travel across Scotland during the literature search phase, to visit (and be based for some time) at other Scottish institutions/cities
- Ability to translate complex information/idea into accessible language
 - Skills in spatial data analysis (GIS)
 - Full UK driving licence