**PhD position SWIMWAY – Tracking fish migration and habitat selection in the Wadden Sea**

**The department of Coastal Systems (COS) of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (Royal NIOZ) is looking for a highly motivated PhD candidate to take part in our research on fish movement ecology. We are searching for a candidate with a background in marine (movement) ecology, field- and/or quantitative biology. The research is part of a larger collaboration in Swimway, a project where a consortium of academic institutions and NGOs study the fish community in the Wadden Sea.**

**LOCATION: ROYAL NIOZ TEXEL (THE NETHERLANDS)**

**VACANCY ID: XX**

**CLOSING DATE: XX**

**THE project**

The Wadden Sea is a UNESCO world heritage site and renowned for being the most extensive intertidal mudflat system in the world. Over the last decades, fish populations in this area have declined, especially of larger fish. The causes and consequences of these declines are unknown. In the ‘Swimway’-project (involving 5 PhD positions and one Postdoc), we will study conservation and restoration measures to help the fish community in the Dutch Wadden Sea. The aim of this PhD-project is to study migration and habitat use of several large fish species using acoustic telemetry and data storage tagging. The candidate will use these spatiotemporal data for modelling habitat selection within the Wadden Sea and migration routes between rivers, the Wadden Sea and North Sea. Therefore, the candidate should be comfortable with modelling. By combining smaller scale habitat selection with large scale migration, we aim to understand the complete life-cycle of fish. These insights will be applied to improve management of fish populations that use the Dutch Wadden Sea. The Swimway project is a consortium between NIOZ, WMR, and RUG. The candidate is based on NIOZ, Texel and will be jointly supervised between NIOZ and WMR.

**ORGANIZATION AND LARGER SWIMWAY PROJECT**

The Swimway project is funded by Waddenfonds, the Ministry of LNV, Rijkswaterstaat and the three northern Dutch provinces. The research will be conducted in close collaboration with Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Wageningen Marine Research, the Waddenvereniging and Sportvisserij Nederland. In the overarching project, several PhD students will closely collaborate and address different questions regarding Wadden Sea fish and nature management. Other collaborations will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the Wadden Sea area, including NGO’s and fisheries organisations.

**THE DEPARTMENT**

Research at the department of COS at Royal NIOZ is aimed at an integral understanding of coastal ecosystems and their populations of fish, birds, and other marine animals in the North Sea and Wadden Sea as well as on a global scale. The department focuses on key physical, chemical and biological processes that determine the productivity and the ecological functioning of coastal areas. The coastal system is studied as a unity by considering the interrelations between the key compartments of the ecosystem (water, sediment, microalgae, macrozoobenthos, parasites, fish and birds).

**THE CANDIDATE**

We are looking for an excellent, highly motivated student (MSc) ready to develop and share new insights in a multidisciplinary and international research environment. Do you have a background in biology, marine biology, ecology, environmental science, or a related subject? In that case we gladly invite you to apply. Candidates with experience in movement ecology and/or modelling, analytical and numerical techniques, as well as with previous research experience will be preferred. Due to the international character of the research group, advanced communication skills in the English language are expected and the ability and motivation to disseminate results to both scientific peers and a broad audience will be an advantage.

**CONDITIONS**

Employment of this position at Royal NIOZ is by [NWO](https://www.nwo.nl/en) (The Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research). We offer a position for 4 (fulltime) years with a salary compliant to the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Research Institutes, a pension scheme, a holiday allowance of 8% of the gross annual salary, a year-end bonus, and flexible work arrangements.

You may expect attractive secondary employment conditions. We offer generous relocation expenses for employees coming from abroad and support with finding accommodation. The PhD defence will take place at Wageningen University, where the candidate will have the opportunity to take part in the professional development courses of the WIAS graduate school.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Please apply online at www.workingatnioz.nl. For additional information about the position, please contact Dr Allert Bijleveld (allert.bijleveld@nioz.nl) or Dr Erwin Winter (Erwin.winter@wur.nl). For information about the procedure, please contact senior HR advisor Sigrid Moerbeek(Sigrid.moerbeek@nioz.nl).

**Closing date for applications: 8 January 2020 24:00 pm. Please note that job interviews will take place at the NIOZ on Texel 22 January.**