

Postdoctoral position in Arctic echinoderm ecology

A postdoctoral researcher position is opening in the laboratory of Dr. Annie Mercier, Department of Ocean Sciences, Memorial University (www.mun.ca/osc/amercier/bio.php), St. John's, NL, Canada.

Position summary:

The successful candidate will primarily work on exploring near-ice or under-ice benthic ecology in the Canadian Arctic and help Indigenous communities develop a deeper understanding of their echinoderm resources with a focus on the commercial sea cucumber *Cucumaria frondosa*. The position is being developed through the Mitacs Accelerate program in collaboration with WWF-Canada as an applied segment of our BenthArctic project. It will rely on a mix of laboratory and field work and may involve travel to remote locations of Nunavut. The successful candidate will also be expected to lead interactions with stakeholders from government and local communities, participate in collaborative team research and mentor junior lab members.

Qualifications:

- (i) PhD in marine biology, or equivalent.
- (ii) Demonstrated expertise (preferably through publications) in echinoderm biology/ecology.
- (iii) Familiarity with sea cucumber fisheries and conservation.
- (iv) Knowledge of cold-water/polar environments an asset.
- (v) Strong analytical, organisational, and multi-tasking skills.
- (vi) Experience with marine animal husbandry.
- (vii) Interest in mentorship and public outreach.
- (viii) Proficiency in both written and oral English.

Applicants are asked to send the following documents:

- (i) Cover letter outlining qualifications for the position and fit with the Mercier Lab.
- (ii) Curriculum vitae with detailed experience and full publication record.
- (iii) Names and contact information of four referees.

The appointment will be for 2 years and is expected to start in late 2022 or early 2023 (negotiable). Applications and specific questions about the position may be addressed to Dr. Annie Mercier (amercier@mun.ca). Review of applicants will begin immediately and proceed until the position is filled.



About the Mercier Lab (<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~amercier/>)

Research in the Mercier Lab examines the interactions between benthic animals and environmental factors at various scales, using a wide spectrum of approaches and techniques, typically combining field samplings and experimental trials with microscopic/cellular and biomarker analyses. Main foci revolve around deep-sea and polar biology, life-history strategies, endogenous and exogenous drivers of gametogenesis/spawning, and species interactions. Applied research explores the impact of various stressors on benthic organisms, and examines questions related to fisheries and aquaculture. Located in the easternmost province of Canada and operating out of the Ocean Sciences Centre, the laboratory offers a unique opportunity to work in a stimulating and dynamic research environment, directly on the shores of the North Atlantic (www.mun.ca/osc/).

