

UVic Ph.D. OPPORTUNITY

eDNA as a tool for monitoring Oolichan

We would like to report an exciting fully funded Ph.D. opportunity through the University of Victoria (UVic) to develop environmental DNA (eDNA) as a tool for monitoring Oolichan (Eulachon, *Thaleichthys pacificus*) populations in British Columbia. The stipend will be \$24,000 per year for four years and will include a field travel budget and all field and research expenses covered. The student will become a key team member in the Conservation and Recovery Research on Oolichan in Haisla Territory Project (CAROOHT). The CAROOHT project will be conducted over five years in a collaboration between LNG Canada, Haisla Nation, Ecofish Research, DFO Science and Fisheries Management, as well as the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Simon Fraser University (SFU), and UVic.

The “eDNA as a tool for monitoring Oolichan” Ph.D. will be based out of UVic and will include fieldwork to collect eDNA samples in remote rivers in Douglas Channel and Gardner Canal working with Haisla Nation and Ecofish Research staff. Some initial Oolichan eDNA data has already been collected, which will be used as a starting point for a quantitative Ph.D. to develop eDNA as a tool for monitoring Oolichan, including assessment of the presence, distribution and run-timing of spawning adults and estimating stock biomass during larval Oolichan outmigration.

This Ph.D. will be supervised by Francis Juanes in Biology at UVic and will be supported by Caren Helbing (Biochemistry and Microbiology at UVic), Mary Lesperance in Mathematics and Statistics at UVic) and Morgan Hocking (Ecofish Research and School of Environmental Studies at UVic).



THE QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

If you have the following qualifications and are looking for an exciting and challenging opportunity, we would like to hear from you.

- M.Sc. in Biology or related field an asset
- Applied fisheries focus, fisheries experience an asset
- Quantitative skills required, including statistical modelling using R or equivalent
- Experience with eDNA or other genomic tools an asset, although focus will be on the application of the results rather than lab processing of the data for the Ph.D. program
- Effective analytical and technical writing skills, and ability to produce high quality reports and peer-reviewed articles
- Excellent time management, organizational and multi-tasking skills
- Strong attention to detail with a commitment to quality, excellence, and ethics

APPLY NOW!

Desired start date is September 2021 or January 2022. Interested applicants can send a resume and cover letter that clearly identifies their experience to CAROOHT@ecofishresearch.com.

- Francis Juanes: juanes@uvic.ca
- Caren Helbing: chelbing@uvic.ca
- Morgan Hocking: mhocking@ecofishresearch.com
- Mary Lesperance: mlespera@uvic.ca

