Position available

PostDoc research position
Statistician – Anthropogenic Impacts on Marine Mammals
ITAW, Germany

The Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW) of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation (TiHo) is an interdisciplinary institute aiming to investigate the ecology of wild animals and to manage the impact of anthropogenic activities. Researchers of ITAWs marine section founded marine mammal research in Germany in 1989. Scientists at ITAW have recognised research strengths in abundance estimation, habitat use, bioacoustics, zoology, pathology as well as health monitoring of cetaceans and seals and coordinate the marine mammal stranding and population monitoring in Germany. The ITAW holds a unique position in Europe as researchers of many different disciplines ranging from veterinary research, zoology, marine biology, physics, geography, mathematics to engineering science conduct integrated research on wildlife. Recently, special focus has been put on the designation of marine protected areas and on investigation of the impact of human activities such as marine renewables, fisheries, navy exercises and marine debris. ITAW coordinates a large number of interdisciplinary projects, with funding from the German federal government and states, the German Research Foundation and the EU. ITAW scientists are actively participating in different international meetings and associations since 1990, including several ICES WGs, ASCOBANS, IWC and the Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. Scientists are participating in implementing the EU MSFD, as well as indicators for OSPAR and HELCOM and participated in several EU funded projects such as SCANS and SCANSII.

Due to this high-level expertise the network of collaborators is large and research is conducted worldwide, in other European countries as well as in Polar Regions (esp. the Southern Ocean).

For our bioacoustics team, we are now recruiting an experienced statistician to be involved in stationary acoustic monitoring and quantification of the sub lethal effects of anthropogenic activities on harbour porpoise.

Required knowledge, skills and abilities:
- Ph.D. degree in biology, mathematics or related field; background in habitat modelling and quantification of environmental impacts on wildlife species
- The successful candidate needs to demonstrate experience in one or more of these topics
  - Habitat modelling using GLM, GEE, GAM, mixed effects models, presence only models, Bayesian approaches of temporally auto-correlated time series data
  - Working with zero inflated data sets
  - Power analysis and simulation studies
  - Agent based modelling
  - Distance sampling
  - Programming skills in R and SQL
  - Basic knowledge of underwater sound propagation is helpful but not necessarily required

Preferred candidates will have
- Experience/knowledge of impact assessments,
• Outstanding verbal and written communication skills, including proven ability in writing of reports and scientific papers, grant proposal preparation, and oral presentations,
• Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team,
• Experience in project supervision and fundraising, Exchange with stakeholders and governmental institutions
• The ability to acquire good German communication skills within short time if not already given

Description of job duties:
- Statistical analysis for multiple projects,
- Development of statistically robust designs for experimental and ecological field studies,
- Project supervision, reporting to funding agencies,
- Evaluation of current methods,
- Analysis of acoustic field data,
- Undertake consultancy work for government agencies,
- Development of new research opportunities and preparation of funding proposals,
- Supervision of bachelor, master and PhD students

We offer:
- 100% position for 2 years, however, an extension is likely given successful grant applications, part time agreements are possible if necessary.
- The salary is according to class 13 TVL of the German standard rates for public employees (100%)
- Funds are available to support travel to conferences and workshops
- Place of work is at ITAW’s aquatic section in Büsum (northern Germany)

We would like to fill this position by 01 February 2015 (however, the position remains open until a suitable candidate is found); complete applications should be submitted by 15 January 2015. Please submit a letter of interest (max. 2 pages), a current CV and contact information of 3 references to Ursula Siebert (ursula.siebert@tiho-hannover.de). Please use the keyword “application”.

Postal address:
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For general information on research at the TiHo and ITAW, see http://www.tiho-hannover.de