Researcher/Post-doc position

Estimation of fish discard survival

Starting date: November 2015
Duration: 12 months
Net salary: depending on previous experience (gross salary includes social services and health insurance)

Context and objectives

The discard ban is central to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Article 15 mentioned an obligation to land all catches of species which are subject to catch limits and to minimum landing sizes. However, fishermen should be allowed to continue discarding species which, according to the best available scientific advice, have a high survival rate when released into the sea. It is so imperative and relevant to define what a «high survival rate» is and to identify species of concern. The purpose of the present project is to improve this knowledge for bottom trawls and nets.
The aims of the post-doctoral fellowship are to (i) identify species able to survive the discard process, (ii) define optimal condition for this survival and (iii) estimate discard survival rate. For that, the main work will consist in analysing the data sets collected from 3 different fleets.
Expected results will allow to directly answering Article 15 from the CFP for several fleets and will provide useful insights to support potential exemptions.

Keywords: CFP, survival, discards, fishing, statistical methods

Laboratory of Ifremer Lorient

The unit of Fisheries Sciences and Technology of Ifremer provides diagnostics and scientific advices for stocks assessment and state of Eco region. It also contributes to the proposition and evaluation of management plan for fisheries, in response to societal demand, member state and fishermen organisations for the sustainable exploitation of marine resources that need to be economically efficient, socially fair and ecologically sustainable.
The research topics of the laboratory tackle three axes: increasing knowledge in biology and ecology of exploited species, study of interactions between uses and ecosystems and the methodological development of models towards the ecosystems based approaches to fisheries.

Required skills:

Applicants must hold a Ph-D in marine ecology, fisheries, or related field.

Applicants should have a strong background in fishery science or fish ecology/biology and strong skills in statistics and data analysis. Knowledge in computer programming (R or equivalent) is required. Good scientific communication and writing in English would be greatly appreciated.

Application should include

1. A cover letter including a statement of research interests for the position
2. A detail CV including publications
3. A summary of the PhD thesis and the date of the defence.
4. The names and contact details (email and phone number) of at least two referees.

Contact for applications: Applications should be sent to the scientific supervisors
dorothee.kopp@ifremer.fr , sonia.mehault@ifremer.fr.

Closing date: The offer will remain open until August 15th 2015.