

Graduate Fellowship in the physical oceanography of whale feeding habitats

Institutions: University of Victoria and Dalhousie University

Position: PhD candidate

Deadline: April 15, 2015 or until filled

As part of the WHaLE project (<http://meopar.ca/meopar-meeting-ocean-challenges-via-seven-new-research-projects/>) supported by the Canadian Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response network (MEOPAR), a PhD position is available under the co-supervision of Dr. Tetjana Ross (Dalhousie University) and Dr. Jody Klymak (University of Victoria).



The successful candidate will use ocean glider observations to study the physical oceanography of established and potential whale habitats on the east and west coasts of Canada. The goal is to identify and describe the key physical processes leading to the formation of persistent and dense zooplankton aggregations that comprise feeding habitats for baleen whales. Exploratory surveys of potential, but presently unsurveyed habitats will allow the student to test predictions as to where new habitats might be found based on physical principles. This will require integration with the WHaLE team, which also includes research on passive acoustic detection of whales and mapping of both whale presence/absence and zooplankton distributions. There is scope within the project for the candidate to develop and address additional questions.

Ideal applicants will have a Master's degree (though strong candidates with a BSc will be considered) and a strong academic record in quantitative-oceanography, physics, engineering, acoustics, mathematics, and/or statistics. The candidate will be tenured at the University of Victoria and will be expected to take up short-term residency at Dalhousie. As a member of MEOPAR, the candidate will participate as a 'MEOPeer' wherein practical, leadership, and networking training will help prepare them for a research career. The ideal start date is May up to September 2015. An annual stipend of \$20,000 (minimum) for tuition and living expenses is available, although scholarship holders are strongly encouraged to apply (top-up available).

Prospective candidates should email a cover letter, CV, unofficial transcripts and contact information for three people (at least 2 academic) who can serve as references to tetjana@dal.ca and jkllymak@uvic.ca. Review of applicants will begin 15 April 2015 and continue until the position is filled. Position is contingent on formal acceptance to the UVic School of Earth and Ocean Sciences graduate program.

Important questions concerning the position should be directed to Dr. Tetjana Ross (tetjana@dal.ca).