

Master student position in Fish Biology, Iceland and Faroe Islands

“Temporal changes in feeding ecology and life histories of Arctic charr and Brown trout in Faroese lakes”

THE PROJECT

The project aims to identify **effects of climate change on community structure and trophic ecology of fishes in small subarctic Faroese lakes. We compare feeding resources, fish diet and fish morphology across three small subarctic lakes.** These lakes represent contrasting combination of fish species. By studying what fishes eat, where they are found, and how they compete, we can identify how they can affect the whole lake ecosystem. We compare the contemporary data to those obtained in summer 2000 (NORLAKE project), allowing an estimation of contemporary changes in salmonid species in the context of warming. This project will increase our spatial and temporal understanding of biodiversity of fishes in small subarctic lakes in the Faroes. This is of critical importance for successful conservation of biodiversity under the current climate and biodiversity crises.

Fieldwork was conducted in summer 2022, but additional fieldwork may take place in summer 2023.



THE TEAM

The project is led by Dr. Camille Leblanc (Hólar University, Iceland) and Dr. Agnes-Katharina Kreiling (Tjóðsavnið, Faroe Islands), which will also be the main supervisors of the Master student.



Further participants in the project are: Prof. Dr. Bjarni K. Kristjánsson (Hólar University, IS), Prof. Dr. Kirsten S. Christoffersen (University of Copenhagen, DK), Leivur Janus Hansen (Tjóðsavnið, FO), Dr. Hilmar J. Malmquist and Dr. Ragnhildur Guðmundsdóttir (both Icelandic Museum of Natural History, IS).



The project is funded by Granskingarráðið, the Research Council Faroe Islands (<https://www.gransking.fo/en/resources/news/nine-research-projects-have-received-funding/>).

THE MASTER STUDENT

We are looking for a scientifically driven biology student to work on fish feeding ecology. The core work will be looking at fish diet, and related fish morphology of two species, namely brown trout and Arctic charr. Results of the study will be highly relevant for assessing diversity in small subarctic lakes.

The student will be enrolled at Hólar University (HU) in Iceland, and working towards a Master of Research in Aquatic Biology. The master includes a minimum of 30 ECTS for courses, in addition to a 90 ECTS research thesis. Course and working language is English.

The candidate will be based at the Department of Aquaculture and Fish Biology (<https://www.holaraquatic.is/education.html>) at HU, an active research centre composed of a dynamic team of international graduate students and faculty. HU is situated in the beautiful village of Hólar (Skagafjörður, North Iceland), with offices and research laboratories in the nearby town Sauðárkrúkur.



Requirements:

- BS degree in biology or related disciplines
- Valid driving license
- Good English level and computer skills
- Able to work independently as well as a part of a team

The Master project is self funded, but there are opportunities to apply for funding.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants should send an application letter, including a CV and copies of academic qualifications and names/e-mail addresses of two referees, as a single pdf to camille@holar.is, **before 10th of November 2022.**



Fieldwork in Leynavatn and Brown trout from Saskunarvatn, FISHFAR project 2022.

For further information contact Agnes Kreiling (agnes@savn.fo) or Camille Leblanc (camille@holar.is)