

The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (www.leibniz-zmt.de) in Bremen is a member of the Leibniz Association, which is supported by the German Federal and State Governments. Through its research, ZMT contributes to developing science-based strategies for sustainable use of tropical coastal systems.

The ZMT has a position available for a

Post-Doctoral Researcher **in the Reef Systems Workgroup (m/f/d)** (Reference number 131 – Reef Systems)

Description:

The Reef Systems Research Group at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen seeks an accomplished post-doctoral researcher with an expertise in quantifying spatio-temporal patterns in fish community structure and disentangling the ecological, biogeographical, and anthropogenic drivers, for a ZMT-funded Post-Doctoral position. The candidate should be proficient in R and/or Python as well as deeply familiar with multivariate numerical ecology methods for community ecology and both functional and taxonomical facets of biodiversity. In addition, prior empirical field research experience on tropical and/or subtropical oceans and/or on the Eastern Tropical Pacific is highly desired.

The Reef Systems research group focuses on four interrelated fields of research: a) the impact of pervasive pollutants on coral reef organisms and ecosystem functions, b) the role of management instruments in safeguarding functional biodiversity and the capacity of coral reefs to recover from climatic perturbations, c) the current and future levels of ecosystem functions and services underpinned by coral reef fish, and d) species' range shifts in response to ocean warming and their ecosystemic consequences. The post-doctoral researcher will contribute directly to the latter and collaborate with the first three.

Tasks:

The post-doctoral researcher will be granted access to historical databases of reef fish abundance compiled throughout the Eastern Tropical Pacific and tasked with (i) quantifying how fish abundance and trait diversity vary across latitude, (ii) compiling species traits related to various functions, (iii) determining which historical, geographic, oceanographic, and climatic factors explain the current spatial patterns of abundance and functional diversity, and (iv) examining how functional diversity changed in selected locations over the past decade.

To address these objectives the researcher will benefit from ZMT's interdisciplinary environment and international collaborations. At ZMT, the researcher will work collaboratively with [Professor Dr. Agostino Merico](#) leader of the Systems Ecology workgroup in the Theoretical Ecology and Modelling Department, who will contribute his expertise in investigating drivers of trait diversity and function levels across latitudinal gradients. The researcher will also cooperate remotely with [Dr. Juan Pablo Quimbayo](#) (University of São Paulo) who has actively participated in data collection and exploration. These collaborations should facilitate the curation of datasets collected in different countries and the identification of the best data analysis approaches. The post-doctoral researcher will focus on data analysis and the preparation of a scientific manuscript, but will also contribute to draft a research proposal based on, and aimed at advancing, these research findings. Motivated candidates with an interest in collaboratively conceptualising forthcoming research projects are therefore particularly encouraged. The researcher will also be required to travel to Central America to disseminate the project results in a dedicated stakeholder workshop.

Requirements:

- Doctoral degree in a relevant field of Ecology, Biology, Zoology, Marine Biology, Macroecology, Biogeography,
- Empirical experience in the analysis of spatio-temporal patterns of fish communities in large datasets,
- Excellent command of R and or Python for data handling and statistical analysis,
- Good knowledge of fish macroecology and biogeography, biology, ecology, behaviour, and physiology related to fish' responses to ocean warming,
- International publication record,
- Effective interpersonal communication skills including ability to work harmoniously in a team,
- Advanced written and oral communication skills in English,
- Experience in acquisition of third-party funded projects would be an additional plus,
- Fluency in spoken Spanish would be an additional plus.

Details of Position:

- The envisioned starting date is 01 July 2019 - Full-time (100%),
- The candidate will be on a one-year contract,
- The salary is according to the German salary group [TV-L, EG 13](#).

Additional Information: For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Sonia Bejarano: sonia.bejarano@leibniz-zmt.de

We offer:

- An exciting working environment in an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented institute and research project
- Possibilities to build and extend an international professional network and participate in a research field of high public and scientific interest
- A family-friendly working environment
- Various Corporate Health Management offers like company sports and fresh fruit baskets

ZMT is an equal opportunity employer.

Applicants with a migration background are welcome.

Disabled persons with comparable qualification receive preferential status.

Application Instructions:

Please send your complete set of application documents in **English** as a **single PDF file** named with the reference number "131-REEFSYSTEMS" and your surname to Ms. Lena Oehlmann (bewerbung@leibniz-zmt.de) by June 6th, 2019.

This set of document should include:

- Letter of motivation summarising your background and expertise (max 1500 words).
- Curriculum vitae (including a publication list).
- PhD certificate
- Degree certificates (Master's or German Diplom)
- Brief proposal of no more than two pages outlining how you would tackle the tasks outlined above and including a project time table.
- Complete contact information for two professional references.

Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Fahrenheitstrasse 6, D -28359 Bremen.

