

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 Working Group 'Fisheries Biology' at ZMT invites applications for a

Research associate

(Reference number: 81)

for the project **TRAFFIC (Trophic TRANSfer eFFICIency in the Benguela Current)**. The position is planned to commence on 1 August 2018.

TRAFFIC is an integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research project with German, Namibian and South African partners. Overall objective of TRAFFIC is to broaden our knowledge on processes that drive the trophic systems of the northern and southern Benguela upwelling subsystems and associated feedbacks to fisheries and climate. Aim is to study the foodweb structure and its functional links, to analyse the trophic transfer efficiency (TTE), and the associated effects of the biologically mediated CO₂ uptake. We hypothesise that a more efficient TTE increases fishery yields and the CO₂ uptake in the sBUS, and that human induced changes in the pelagic foodweb structure lowered fishery yields and favoured the CO₂ emission in the nBUS. Results will be used to develop conceptual models of the BUS explaining how changes in ecosystem structure affect fisheries and the biologically mediated CO₂ uptake as seen in the two subsystems.

Tasks for the position advertised here are within the sub-project 4 which is in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries in Cape Town, South Africa, and the National Museum, Information and Research Center in Swakopmund, Namibia: Comparison of the role of early life stages of small pelagic fishes in the trophic systems of the northern and southern Benguela upwelling system:

- Literature review of relevant themes (e.g. influence of climate change on marine ecosystems, biomass size spectra models, ecology of upwelling area and the open ocean)
- Participation in research cruises, employment and analysis of acoustic methods (EK80) and data to investigate the horizontal and vertical distribution of different size classes and life stages
- Deployment of multiple opening closing nets to investigate species composition and verify acoustic results
- Investigate growth and condition as well as feeding behaviour of key species using up-to-date methodologies
- Conducting research visits to countries in southern Africa
- Application of biomass size spectra and stable isotope data to analyse transfer efficiency
- Presentation of results in national and international working groups and scientific meetings
- Publication of results in peer reviewed scientific journals

Your profile:

- Advanced university degree in marine sciences (biological oceanography or physical oceanography with some biological background), fisheries biology or comparable disciplines. Depending on the qualification and background the post may be filled up to a work time equivalent of a PhD (66,6%) or postdoc (100%).
- Experience in the processing and analysis of extensive biological field data and community analysis

- Very good knowledge of R
- Experience in longer research cruises and research visits are welcome
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work organized and independently
- Excellent knowledge of the English language (written and spoken)

For additional information please contact Dr. Werner Ekau (werner.ekau@leibniz-zmt.de).

We offer:

- An exiting 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 work environment

Salary will be paid according to the German TV-L EG 13. The candidate will be on a three years Contract. ZMT is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants with a migration background are welcome. Handicapped applicants are especially considered if equally qualified for the job; a minimum of physical fitness, however, will be required because of travelling overseas and participating in research cruises.

Please send your application until 30 June 2018 as a single pdf file with the reference number "81 – TRAFFIC" to Mrs. Lena Oehlmann, E-Mail: bewerbung@leibniz-zmt.de. Beyond that date, advertisement may remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

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