



Graduate Student Opportunities at the University of Victoria to Study Vessel Noise Impacts on Ringed Seals in the Canadian Arctic

We are seeking highly qualified candidates for two graduate student positions to work on a large project focused on the impacts of underwater noise from vessel traffic on ringed seals (*Pusa hispida*) in the Canadian Arctic. The students will be based at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and would work closely with Dr. Francis Juanes (Department of Biology) and Dr. Stan Dosso (School of Earth and Ocean Sciences) at the University of Victoria, and with Dr. Stephen Insley and Dr. William Halliday of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Canada (www.arcticnoise.ca), both of whom are adjunct professors at the University of Victoria.

One position will be based in the Department of Biology, co-supervised by Dr. Juanes and Dr. Insley, and will focus on the spatial ecology of ringed seals and quantify their exposure and behavioural responses to underwater noise from vessel traffic. The other position will be based in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, co-supervised by Dr. Dosso and Dr. Halliday, and will focus on ringed seal bioacoustics, including the impacts of underwater noise on ringed seal vocalizations. Both positions will involve some fieldwork in the western Canadian Arctic, and will also involve significant data processing and analytical techniques.

The positions, pending a successful application for a Mitacs fellowship, will start in September 2022, and include four years of funding.

Candidates for both positions should have a good understanding of marine mammal ecology and conservation, a firm understanding of statistical analyses, and should possess excellent English oral and written communication skills. The ideal candidate for the spatial ecology position should have experience in spatial ecology, analyses of animal movement data, and using Geographic Information Systems, as well as some knowledge of underwater acoustics. The ideal candidate for the bioacoustics position should have experience in passive acoustic monitoring, underwater acoustics, and bioacoustics. Candidates for both positions should be comfortable conducting fieldwork in remote, harsh environments, including working out of small boats.

Candidates will ideally be at the PhD level, and should have obtained an MSc by September 2022. Exceptions will be considered for excellent candidates with very relevant experience who are at the MSc level.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, CV, unofficial transcripts for undergraduate and graduate school, and the names and email addresses of two references to Dr. William Halliday (whalliday@wcs.org). This application will remain open until the right candidates are found, but we will start reviewing applications immediately. All applicants will be notified once we have selected a candidate. Applicants should NOT apply directly to programs at the University of Victoria; this will happen after the candidate is chosen and an application to Mitacs has been submitted.