

THESIS TITLE**The success of young fish recruitment in the Rhine River (Netherlands): fieldwork****RESEARCH QUESTION**

What are the success factors for the recruitment of young fish in the branches of the River rhine

SUPERVISOR

Leo Nagelkerke / Twan Stoffers

LOCATION

ZODIAC building / fieldwork

PERIOD

1-4-2019 - 30-9-2019

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This thesis will be part of a PhD project.

We are looking for 4 enthusiastic MSc students who are willing to contribute to a big and unique project: a large-scale quantitative assessment of the success factors of fish recruitment in the River Rhine branches. This project, initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (Rijkswaterstaat) aims at the evaluation of different management measures to enhance the populations of rheophilic fishes and the ecological quality of Dutch rivers. In other words: we are interested in how river fish use the man-made habitats along the rivers IJssel, Waal and Nederrijn/Lek.

For fieldwork in 2019 we want to zoom in on a selection of potentially interesting locations. This provides us with the opportunity to facilitate fieldwork during the spring and summer period. Especially the habitat use of fish larvae and juveniles within a system are of interest. This can be investigated through sampling with nets, but also through underwater filming

Fieldwork will be intensive (weekly or bi-weekly), but, if successful, you will be given the opportunity to co-author the article that will be written about the outcome.

RESEARCH AIM/ SCOPE

The overall aim of the PhD project is to identify the success factors for the recruitment of rheophilic fishes, which can be used for advise on management measures.

REQUIREMENTS

- Interest in fish ecology
- Independent and inquisitive attitude
- Hard worker
- Affinity with quantitative methods (R)

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OTHER INFORMATION

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