

MSc thesis with fieldwork opportunity 2019

- Title:** The success of young fish recruitment in the Rhine River secondary channels
- Group:** Aquaculture & Fisheries (AFI)
- Project type:** MSc thesis
- Credits:** 24-36
- Supervisor(s):** Twan Stoffers MSc
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- Examiner(s):** Prof Dr Geert Wiegertjes
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- Begin date:** March or June 2019
- Description:** For 2019 we are looking for 4 enthusiastic MSc students who are willing to contribute to a big and unique ecological project in the Netherlands: a large-scale quantitative assessment of fish recruitment in secondary channels of the River Rhine. This project, initiated by Rijkswaterstaat aims at the evaluation of different management measures to enhance the populations of rheophilic fishes and the ecological quality of Dutch rivers.
- We are interested in how juvenile river fish use floodplain habitats along the rivers IJssel and Waal. Fieldwork in 2019 will focus on assessing fish, macrofauna and zooplankton communities of 3 secondary channels in particular. We will also focus on measuring environmental variables and looking at habitat mosaic of these systems. This provides us with the opportunity to facilitate some amazing student projects with lots of fieldwork during the spring and summer period in 2019. We also have projects for students who are more into labwork or data analysis.
- Depending on the exact topic and research question, thesis students are going to participate in weekly fieldwork and laboratory work, do data analysis in R and write up the results in a thesis report. If successful, you will be given the opportunity to co-author the article that will be written about the outcome. If you are interested in this amazing thesis opportunity, please contact one of the supervisors for more information.
- Requirements:** If you are interested in fish or zooplankton/macrofauna ecology, looking for fieldwork, are good with numbers, and have an independent and inquisitive attitude, this is the project for you! A driver's license and a working knowledge of Dutch are of good use too.