

From: Brendan Connors
Subject: Postdoctoral opportunity with DFO on Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation and population ecology

Using Management Strategy Evaluation to understand the consequences of mismatch between Sablefish stock structure and the scale of assessment and management across the northeast Pacific.

Natural Resources Canada Postdoctoral Research Program

POST-DOCTORAL POSITION

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to lead a research project on the population ecology and management of Sablefish. The Principal Investigators on the project are Drs. [Brendan Connors](#) (DFO Institute of Ocean Sciences), and [Sean Cox](#) (Simon Fraser University); key collaborators include Drs. [Melissa Haltuch](#) (NOAA NW Fisheries Science Center), and [Dana Hanselman](#) (NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center), as well as [Carrie Holt](#) and [Sean Anderson](#) (DFO Pacific Biological Station).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sablefish are a long-lived and commercially-valuable deep-water species that range from Southern California to the Bering Sea. Sablefish are assessed and managed at regional scales (i.e., Alaska, British Columbia and the US West Coast) but are a highly mobile straddling stock with little genetic evidence of population structure across these management regions. The conservation and fishery consequences of this mismatch between Sablefish stock structure and the scale of assessment and management are unknown. The objective of this project is to work collaboratively with an international team of Sablefish scientists to conduct a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) that is based on Sablefish population dynamics and stock structure across their range. We will use the MSE to understand the potential consequences of the mismatch between Sablefish stock structure and management by simulation testing current, and potential future, management procedures (data collection scheme, stock assessment method, harvest policy rules) to quantify their performance against a range of conservation and fishery objectives. The outcomes of the proposed work will provide scientific advice to help advance international fisheries governance by improving our understanding of Sablefish population dynamics and their management implications over the full range of their distribution.

While the focus of the position is on the above research, the position will afford ample opportunity for motivated individuals to lead and/or contribute to other research on groundfish population ecology and management.

ESSENTIAL ASSET QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must have completed a PhD in fisheries science or a related discipline within the past three years, and have demonstrated expertise in spatial population ecology and advanced statistical and simulation modelling. Successful candidates will be self-motivated and have a proven track record of publishing their research in peer-reviewed journals. The position is available for candidates of all nationalities but those who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada must satisfy Canadian immigration requirements.

LOCATION OF TENURE FLEXIBLE: Pacific Biological Station (PBS), Nanaimo, BC; Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS), Sidney, BC; or School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. The west coast of Canada, is well known for its rainforests, beaches, and mountains. It is a destination for kayaking, hiking, surfing, skiing, diving, biking and camping.

POSITION DETAILS AND HOW TO APPLY

This fellowship is available to start **September 1, 2018** and will be completed by **January 1, 2021** with a salary of \$65,000 CAD per annum plus travel support. The Canadian Government Postdoctoral Research Program is administered by Natural Resources Canada (NRC). More details about the program can be found at: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/careers/17880>.

CONTACT

Interested applicants should email: **1) CV**; and **2) cover letter outlining the experience and skills they bring to the project** to: Brendan Connors, Brendan.Connors@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Short-listed applicants will be invited to develop a full application through the NRC system. CVs will be accepted until the position is filled.