

FUNDED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN OCEANOGRAPHY

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| Position: | Graduate Research Assistant in Ecological Oceanography |
| Qualification: | Masters of Science degree in Marine Resource Management (MRM) |
| Term: | 2 years commencing 16 September 2025 |
| Research Topic: | Collection and analysis of abyssal baited camera and baited trap data in the Cook Islands |
| Research Base: | Ecological Oceanography Lab at Oregon State University |
| Mentor: | Assistant Professor Astrid Leitner |
| Time Commitment: | 0.49 FTE |
| Remuneration: | Monthly salary of USD3,142 pre-tax plus benefits and tuition |

Background

CIC Ltd, a seabed minerals ocean research company in the Cook Islands and Astrid Leitner, Assistant Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS) at Oregon State University are seeking applicants for a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) to conduct research and complete their Masters of Science degree in Marine Resource Management (MRM).

Description

MRM is a science-based, interdisciplinary master's program. The program provides students with the interdisciplinary training necessary to function confidently and effectively in professional resource management positions. Graduates from the program are trained to bridge the gap between science and policy.

The GRA will join Leitner's research group and their research will be focused on the collection and analysis of abyssal baited camera and baited trap data in the Cook Islands. This data will catalogue demersal scavenger and predator biodiversity and community composition and inform the ecological baseline assessment of a deep-sea mining exploration license area, Continuous Block Group 4 (CBG4), held by CIC Ltd.

This is a 0.49FTE position within the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS) at Oregon State University, funded by CIC Ltd, the company holding the exploration license and funding the mandated independent research in the area in question.

Information about the degree program, and other aspects of the GRA position can be found at :
<https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/mrm> and <https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu> .

Details of the benefits that the GRA receives can be found at :
https://hr.oregonstate.edu/sites/hr.oregonstate.edu/files/graduate_assistants_benefits_summary.pdf. The start date is September 16, 2025, with the possibility of participation in initial field work in Summer 2025.

Qualifications

Applicants must hold a Bachelor of Science degree at the time of application submission. This degree must be in a relevant field, (eg oceanography, marine biology, marine resources and policy, ecology) OR the applicant must have significant professional experience (eg government, NGO, consultancy) in one of these areas. The applicant should have experience in marine field work, data management, numerical data analysis (e.g., in R or Python), and experience in scientific writing (e.g. government reports, white papers, grey literature, peer-reviewed literature, or undergraduate research thesis) is preferred. Experience with deep sea sampling methods and previous experience with BRUVs is preferred (annotation, deployment etc). Applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Application

Applications must be received by 20 April 2025, to be given full consideration.

To apply, please send:

- (1) a Statement of Intent describing academic experience, qualifications, and interest in the position;
- (2) a curriculum vitae or resume, including current employment and contact information and
- (3) names, and contact information of three professional references.

Application materials and questions regarding this position should be emailed to Dr. Leitner with the subject "CIC GRA Application" and copied to Shona Lynch.

Contact Details

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